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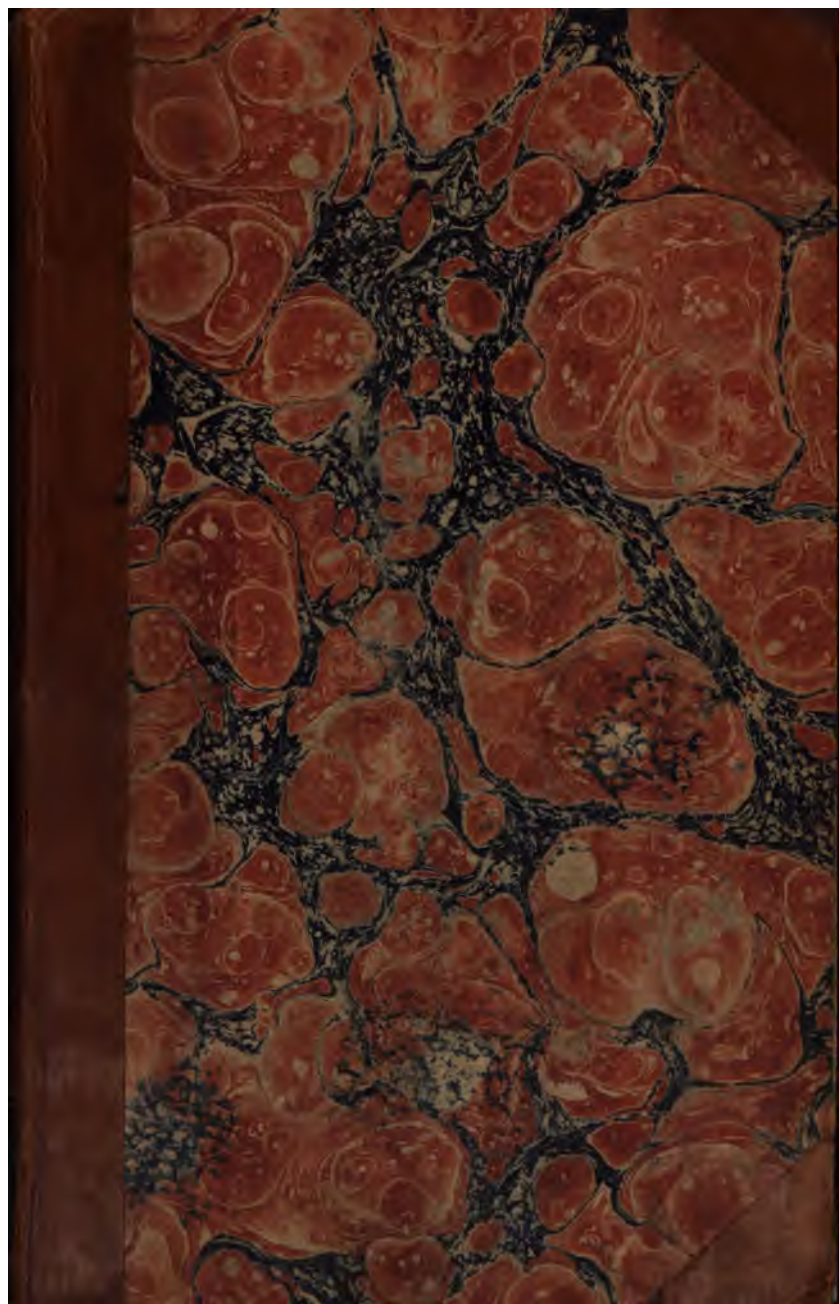
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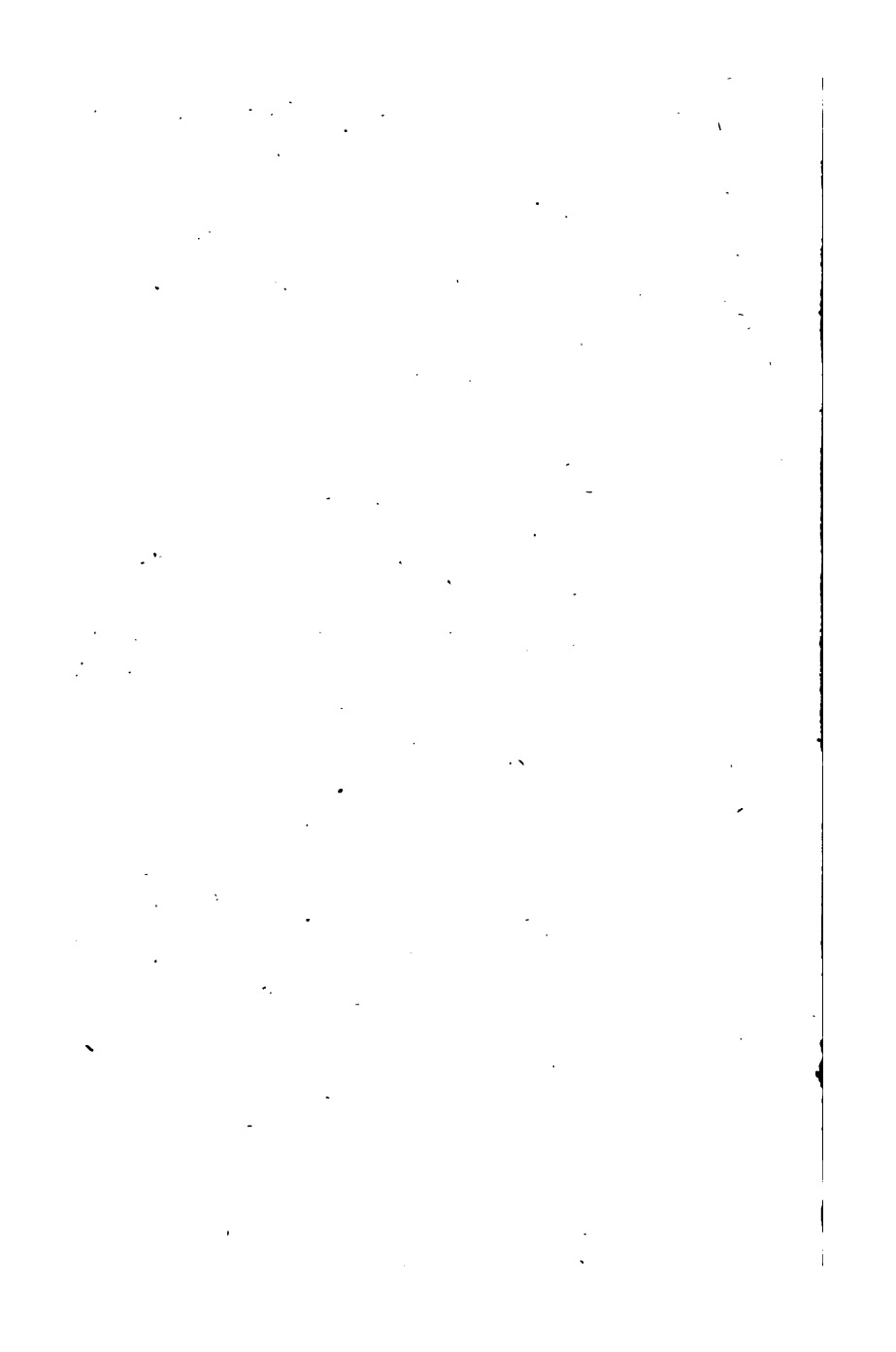




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THE
FOREST OF ST. BERNARDO.

A NOVEL,
IN FOUR VOLUMES.



By MISS M. HAMILTON.

VOLUME III.

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THE
FOREST OF ST. BERNARDO.

CHAP. I.

NOTHING material happened during five years at Upton Hall.—Juliana had made a rapid progress in every branch of education : she was in her ninth year, rather tall of her age, and formed by the hand of the graces ; her strength of mind even at that early period astonished every one ; yet she was all obedience,

her temper sweet, and her manners elegant and captivating to a degree. She considered Mr. and Mrs. Millward as parents, and felt the greatest respect and love for them ; the good old General she idolized. Edward and Matilda shared her infantine affections : she had entirely forgotten the Marquis, as in all his letters he requested never to be mentioned to Juliana.

Father Edmund enjoyed his health and faculties undiminished, and it was with enthusiastic pleasure that he witnessed the opening perfections and growing virtues of the youthful part of the family at the Hall. He kept up a constant correspondence with the Marquis ; time, joined to the unremitting tenderness

enderness of his charming Marchioness,
 had softened his grief; yet he revered
 the memory of his Juliana. Sophronia
 had in the course of six years presented
 him with a son and daughter: speaking
 of them in one of his letters to Father
 Edmund, he says; 'both of them are
 lovely; my boy prattles at a great rate,
 and is the joy and pride of the Duke
 and Don Sebastian. Once more I feel I
 am a father; yet, believe me, the first
 time the appellation caught my ear,
 painful indeed were my sensations. My
 little Juliana rushed on my memory;
 oh Heavens! what would I not give to
 clasp that charming child to my bosom!
 the flattering accounts I constantly re-
 ceive of her from you and my kind
 friends Mr. and Mrs. Millward, afford me

real comfort ; yet to be the owner of such a treasure, and forever deprived the enjoyment of it, drives me on the verge of madness ; but I must lay down my pen, for if I give a loose to my feelings on this subject I shall incur your displeasure.'

CHAP. II.

It was at this period that the son of the Pretender, encouraged by promises from France, made an effort for gaining the crown of England. He was enterprising and ambitious, but utterly unequal to the bold undertaking; he was flattered by the rash and discontented that the kingdom was ripe for a revolt. He embarked for Scotland accompanied by a few desperate adventurers, several

officers, and arms for two thousand men.

As soon as the news of Charles's landing reached Devonshire, the General lamented in strong terms to Mr. Millward his incapacity of taking an active part in suppressing the rebellion, and in supporting the House of Hanover on the throne of Great Britain.

“You, Sir,” replied Mr. Millward, “have already done your duty, and more than once have bled in the defence of your king and country; but I certainly ought not to remain inactive. No one has more at stake, or is more sensible of the many blessings we enjoy under the mild sway of the Brunswick family ;

family; it is therefore incumbent on me to lend my aid to quell a rebellion that threatens to overturn our constitution and religion. If you, Sir, approve of it, I will offer to raise a troop of horse, free of all expense to government. I am certain I shall have no difficulty to find men amongst our tenants."

"I more than approve," replied the General; "it gratifies my most sanguine wishes. We must break your intention with caution to Emma, who, I think, will not oppose your plan, though I fear it will be a severe trial to part with you; yet I trust she will exert her fortitude on this occasion."

"I have no doubt of my Emma act-
ing

ing worthy of herself," was Mr. Henry's reply.—At that instant she entered the room.

"My dearest Emma," said Mr. Millward, taking her hand, "I wish to consult you on a subject of great importance; to a woman of your understanding it is needless to point out that it is necessary at the present critical juncture for even the lowest individual to assist in quelling the effort made by the young Pretender to plunge this happy island into civil war; how much more is it my duty to exert myself, possessed of a princely fortune, blessed as a father and husband, surrounded by hundreds of dependants and tenants, who look up to me for protection? it would ill become
me

me to remain a calm spectator. Say then, my Emma, have I your consent to offer my service to the state?"

Mrs. Millward's feelings are more easily imagined than described; with difficulty she suppressed them. She saw the propriety of Mr. Millward's taking an active part, and her judgment approved what her heart condemned. After a short pause, she said—

"Yes, my beloved husband, you have my full consent to act as honour dictates."

Mr. Millward pressed her to his heart, but neither for some minutes could utter a syllable. At length he cried—

“Thanks, my noble-minded Emma ; never can I repay you for this, permit me to call it, heroic conduct. Did I not tell you, Sir, (turning to the General,) that my Emma would act worthy of herself? I will immediately write to the ministers and tender my service, and offer to bring in a very short time a troop of horse into the field properly accoutred and fit for service.”

He sent the letter express, and received a polite and speedy answer, informing him that his Majesty had accepted his proposals and appointed him colonel, and desired him to join the royal army as soon as possible.

Mr. Millward had previously called a
meeting

meeting of the farmers and the rest of the tenants belonging to Upton and Thorpe, and had the pleasure to find they were all willing to take up arms; he took care not to take those who had large families. With a few exceptions his troop was composed of young unmarried men. His only difficulty lay in refusing without hurting their feelings; when he urged for an excuse their wives and children, their reply was :

“ Why are we to be exempted on their account from sharing the danger of our beloved patron? Oh! Sir, what do we not owe you? suffer us then to follow you to the field, and evince by our actions that you have taught us how

to prize the privileges we enjoy, and the duty we owe our King and country."

Mr. Millward expressed his thanks for this proof of their attachment, and with the help of the good rector, whom they all revered, adjusted matters to the satisfaction of the honest rustics.

James was in his glory, as he was appointed to teach the men their exercise, nor was the General idle; he regularly attended the drill morning and evening, and by astonishing exertions this little chosen band were properly accoutred, clothed, and fit to take the field in a very short space of time.

Poor James longed to accompany Mr.
Millward;

Millward; but he was so necessary to the General that he was fearful of making the request. At last he assumed courage to mention it to Mr. Millward, who was much pleased at the zeal of this veteran soldier, and would have been glad to have taken him, for though turned of sixty he was active and robust, well skilled in military tactics, and had seen a good deal of actual service; yet as he was certain the General would be unhappy to part with his old favourite, he determined to persuade James to relinquish his design before he could return an answer to the request. James finding Mr. Millward was not displeased, gave loose to his honest feelings :

“If your honour,” said he, “would
obtain

obtain the General's consent, I should be the happiest creature in the world; I have got Betty's leave, who has promised to double her attentions to my dear master; and his valet has been so many years in our service that I should not be afraid to trust his honour to his care, as he knows all his ways, not quite so well as I do to be sure, but with a little of my instruction he would not be at a loss."

"I should be happy, my good James, to comply with your request, and was I to consult my own inclination and comfort I should most willingly accept your offer; but I am certain it would distress the General to be without you even for a short time: another consideration, which

I am

I am sure will have its due weight with you, is, that Mrs. Millward wishes you to remain at the Hall, for if the General should be ill during my absence, she would be miserable if you were not about him."

"Your honour has said enough; the Lord forbid that I should add to my lady's uneasiness; she will suffer too much in parting with your honour; though I should have liked to have had a pop or two at the rebels, a pack of Popish jacobites; but as I cannot be spared, it is my duty to submit."

James retired highly pleased to find he was of so much consequence in the family.

At

At length the day arrived that was for the first time since their marriage to separate Henry and Emma, and break in on their domestic felicity; which, during the course of thirteen years, had not met with the smallest interruption.

Mr. Millward had previously taken leave of the Hermit, and received the good old man's benediction.

“Go, my son,” said he, “and may the God of battles nerve your arm and protect you in the hour of danger; and return you, victorious, to the bosom of your family! My prayers shall unremittingly be offered to the all-wise and powerful Deity (in whose hands are
life

life and death) for your preservation. I trust I shall live to see peace restored to this truly happy island: did the inhabitants duly estimate their invaluable constitution; did they reflect on the mildness of the government, and the virtues of the family that now sway the sceptre, never would discord spread her baneful influence, and the miseries attending a civil war be unknown."

Mr. Millward rose at break of day and stole softly down stairs, hoping to escape the painful task of bidding farewell to his wife and family; but Emma, who had not closed her eyes during the night, followed him immediately, and to his great surprise, he found every one in motion.

On

On entering the breakfast room, the General, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Owen, and the children were already assembled; Emma's fortitude had almost forsaken her, but perceiving Mr. Millward was exceedingly agitated, she collected herself and thus addressed him :

“ My dear Henry, the moment of separation is now arrived : painful are the sensations I feel in parting with the husband of my fondest affection, and the beloved father of my children ; yet convinced you act from motives of duty, and that the rank you hold in society demands your exertions, it is necessary you should animate by example your tenants and dependants ; I therefore trust, my dear Henry, that Heaven
will

will crown your efforts with success; that the rebellion will be shortly crushed, and you restored to these arms: my prayers and those of our dear little ones shall be daily offered for your preservation and protection."

"Thanks, my dearest love; ten thousand thanks for the strongest proof you could give me of your affection: your whole conduct on this trying occasion only more strongly confirms what ever was my opinion, that your mind and feelings are superior to false tenderness and the weakness of your sex.—To you, Sir," turning to the General, "I leave the care of all I value on earth; but sensible they are equally dear to you, it
is

is needless to say more on the subject."

The General embraced him and presented him with a sword, saying :

" This, my Henry, has often dealt destruction to the enemies of our country ; in your hand I am certain it will not be inactive or useless : it was my ever lamented friend, your revered father's ; he bequeathed it to me with his dying breath ; he fought by my side in the glorious battle of ——— where he gained immortal honours, though alas ! he purchased it with his life—take it, my son, and may victory prove the reward of valor !"

Mr.

Mr. Millward grasped the sword, pressed the General's hand, which he kissed respectfully, but could not utter a word: the children by their caresses and innocent questions had almost unmanned him; he kissed and blessed them—the girls clung round him and burst into tears. Mrs. Owen observing the scene was too affecting, led them out of the room. Edward and Henry could hardly suppress their grief, but Mr. Smith told them if they would behave like men, they should, with Mr. Millward's permission, accompany him a few miles. This being granted, in some measure dispelled the gloom, and the horses were ordered. Mr. Millward once more embracing Emma, mounted his horse and joined his companions, who

who were waiting for him in the Park, which was crowded with spectators.

As soon as he approached, the air rung with acclamations and loud huzzas: James was busy giving his final instructions and orders to the troop—the honest veteran dropped a tear, and sincerely lamented he could not share their dangers.

The cavalcade set off in high spirits accompanied by the prayers and wishes of all present.

As soon as they were out of sight, Emma retired to her apartment to give vent to her feelings: a flood of tears relieved.

relieved her, and she was able to meet the family at dinner with tolerable composure. Both the Mrs. Montagues and Louisa spent the day at the Hall; the General, though evidently affected, exerted himself: Mrs. Owen took Juliana and Matilda to visit the Hermit, who by his affectionate manner and good advice soothed their sorrow and dried their tears; he charged them to be cheerful, as otherwise they would add to the affliction of their worthy parent: they promised to endeavour to obey him, and do all in their power to amuse their mamma and grandpapa.

In the evening, the Rector, his son, Mr. Smith, and the boys returned: they had dined with Mr. Millward, who they had
left

left in good spirits ; he wrote a few lines to Emma, saying she should hear from him by every opportunity.

In a few days she had the pleasure of hearing he had joined General H——y at Edinburgh, a few days after the King's troops had been obliged to make a precipitate retreat from Falkirk.

Mr. Millward, or the Colonel, (as we must in future call him,) was received with every mark of attention and respect, and was complimented in the most flattering manner on the fine appearance of his men and their soldier-like conduct. Indeed, considering the shortness of the time, the progress they had made in

in the military science - was astonishing, and this reinforcement was looked on as a great acquisition to the royal army.

Notwithstanding every effort on the part of Mrs. Millward, the being separated from her husband, and the reflection of the danger he was hourly exposed to, preyed on her mind. During the day she appeared perfectly composed and even cheerful; but her nights were mostly spent in tears and in prayers for the safety of her adored husband: every post brought her letters which for the moment tranquillised her, as he constantly assured her of his being in good health and spirits; at length he informed her that his Royal Highness the

Duke of Cam—d had joined them, to whom he had had the honour of being introduced, and had been received with something more than politeness. The Duke had reviewed his troop, and expressed his approbation in the strongest terms. 'They are,' continued he, 'a set of fine spirited young fellows, eager to engage in the cause, nor will they be long before they are called to action; the presence of our royal commander has revived the drooping spirits of the army, and I think I may venture to pronounce that the triumphs of the rebels are at an end. We reached Aberdeen last night, and have already been joined by several of the Scotch nobility, who are attached to the House of Hanover.'

Louisa

Louisa Montague was a daily visitor at the Hall, she had just entered her eighteenth year, and was a fine lively girl; she had a pretty turn for poetry. In one of her rambles, she entered a neat retired cottage, lately taken by a young woman who gained her living by making lace: Louisa was struck by her appearance, which interested her greatly, and she inquired into the particulars of her situation. She made a purchase of some edging, and returned to the Rectory highly pleased with the simpleness of the cottager's story.

Louisa was so full of her adventure with the fair cottager, that she paid an early visit at the Hall, so impatient was she to communicate to her friends Su-

san's little tale, whose modesty and artless behaviour Louisa described in such lively colours that she interested the family in her favour; and it was agreed that the next morning, accompanied by the young folks, they would call at the cottage.

As often as possible intelligence was received from the Colonel, but as they were in pursuit of the rebels, some days passed without hearing.

At length the pleasing news arrived of the total defeat of the rebel army at the memorable battle of Culloden, where Colonel Millward and his troop gained well-merited laurels, and were publicly thanked by H. R. H. the Duke of

C—d

C——d at the head of the army. In his letter which was written immediately after the engagement, he thus expresses himself:

“ Thank Heaven, my dearest life, we have conquered: peace will soon be restored: the public prints will give you the particular events of this glorious day. I write at the drum head; so have only time to say that I have escaped the perils of the field, and have the pleasure to add, that notwithstanding the troop I have the honour to command was engaged the whole action and pursued a flying party of the enemy, I have not lost a man; about twenty are wounded; but none mortally. I enclose three lines to our dear father: My blessing attend

the children ; soon shall I fold them and
my adored wife to the bosom of her
most tender and affectionate

“ H. MILLWARD.”

This pleasing account, which came
express, diffused a general joy, and re-
stored tranquillity at Upton Hall. The
worthy James as usual gave a loose to
his feelings, and was quite proud of
being the messenger to the villagers of
the good news, that they had not to de-
plore the loss of any of their relatives.

As soon as every thing was settled
and peace perfectly re-established in the
North, the Colonel attended His Royal
Highness to London, and after paying
his respects at St. James's, where he was
received

received by his Sovereign in the most gracious manner, he set out for Devonshire : his youthful band of warriors had returned home some weeks before, but being apprised of their revered commander being on the road, they met him within twenty miles, and he entered his own domain escorted by his troop, and was welcomed by his numerous tenants and dependants with the most heartfelt joy ; at the head of whom was James, who could not express what he felt on this happy event ; and as the tears rolled down his sun-burnt cheeks, he could hardly articulate—

“ Heaven be praised ! your honour is come back safe. Ah ! Sir,” cried he, when he could speak ; “ though your

honour has been silent on the subject, the papers have told us how bravely you fought, and that our regiment and their gallant commander performed prodigies of valour."

"Thanks, my honest friend," said Mr. Millward, shaking him heartily by the hand; "I trust all are well at the Hall."

"All, all, your honour, and waiting impatiently in the park for your arrival."

At that instant the cavalcade was increased by the rector, his son, and a number of the neighbouring gentlemen, Mr. Smith, Edward, and Henry. Mr. Millward

Millward affectionately embraced the boys: he was much affected by the uncommon respect paid him by all ranks. Words cannot describe the meeting of Mr. and Mrs. Millward.

“Oh! my Henry,” she exclaimed, as he pressed her to his heart; “I trust we meet to part no more. Thanks to the Almighty Ruler of the world, who has heard my prayer and restored my husband; kneel, my children, and express your gratitude to Heaven.”

The sensations of all present were exquisitely painful. The elder Mr. Montague proposed to the gentlemen to take leave, but the General would not part with them till they had promised to spend the
 c 5 ensuing

ensuing day at the Hall. James was appointed to entertain the peasantry, the cottagers, and his brother soldiers.

The family retired, but for some time were wholly absorbed in pleasing sensations, till the General roused them by asking Mr. Millward if he would not take some refreshment as he looked fatigued. In a few hours they recovered sufficient composure to enjoy each others' company. No one presumed to break in on the domestic circle that evening; but next morning the Hall was crowded with visitors of all ranks to congratulate the Colonel on his safe return. As soon as the ceremony of receiving and paying visits was over, Mr. Millward resumed his usual occupations.

tions, On making the tour of his estate he had the satisfaction of finding that every thing during his absence had been conducted with the greatest regularity by the truly good rector and his son; the temporary absence seemed to give a double zest to his domestic enjoyments.

The worthy Hermit received him with raptures; tears of unfeigned joy coursed one another down his furrowed cheeks, while his eyes and hands were raised in speechless ecstacy to Heaven.

"Now," cried he, when he could find utterance, "I shall die content."

"Long, my friend, long may you be
c 6 spared,"

spared," said Mr. Millward, "for the benefit of mankind."

"I do not wish, my dear patron, to have the period of my existence shortened, but wait with patience Heaven's appointed time."

He then entered into conversation relative to the rebellion, and learnt with extreme pleasure that in future there would be nothing to apprehend, for the Brunswick family were firmly seated on the throne of these realms.

"Long, long may their posterity," continued Mr. Millward, "sway the British sceptre."

A grand

A grand entertainment was given on the appointed day to disband the troop, and they received each a handsome gratuity for their service, and the thanks of their commander; those who had been wounded had a pension of ten pounds a year settled on them for life.

CHAP. III.

THE eighteen months that Mr. Millward had been absent from his family had made a considerable alteration in the younger part of it ; they had increased in stature and made a rapid progress in their education and different accomplishments.

Edward approached his sixteenth year ; he strongly resembled his father
both

both in person and disposition. Henry had had the same advantages in point of education as Edward; he was a very fine manly boy, possessed of sentiments that did him honour; his manners were pleasing; young as he was, his breast glowed with gratitude for his benefactors without fawning: he was humble and respectful in his behaviour. It was now thought time for Henry to choose his mode of life, as the General meant him to be a useful not an idle member of society. Mr. Smith was consulted on the occasion; he replied, he had often sounded Henry on the subject and thought he had a predilection for the law.

“If that is his choice,” said the General,

neral, "suppose we settle him with our land steward; he is getting in years and will soon want an assistant: we will propose his taking Henry for five years to instruct him in the law, for which he shall have a handsome fee at the expiration of his clerkship. I should hope, with Mr. Bernard's advice, Henry will be able to take his place, and Mr. Bernard shall enjoy the salary for life. You see (turning to Mr. and Mrs. Millward) I have taken the liberty of nominating your future land steward."

"Any proposition of yours, Sir, cannot fail of meeting our approbation," replied Mr. Millward, "but this in particular. I think it a suitable provision for Henry, who is now arrived at an age that
that

that to continue his present mode of education would only be prejudicial to him, by inspiring notions above the rank he is destined to fill in society, which might militate against his future happiness."

Mr. Bernard was sent for and the proposals made, which he accepted with gratitude.

"We do not mean, Mr. Bernard, that you should ever resign a post you have held so many years with honour, and to the advantage of your employers; but when Henry is capable we intend he should act for you and release you from the fatigues of business."

Mr. Bernard once more expressed his
thanks,

thanks, and assured them he would do every thing in his power to render Henry's situation agreeable to him in every respect. Henry and James were sent for, and the General addressed the former as follows :

"You are now, Henry, of an age to enter on some employment : the education you have received will, I trust, enable you to rise in the world. Tell me then with sincerity if the plan I have formed meets your wishes ; your parents are likewise to be consulted."

"Lord bless your honour!" exclaimed James, "we have no will but yours. I and Betty it is true shall be foolish enough to lament the loss of our boy's company,

company, but still whatever your honour thinks is for his good we will with thankfulness give our consent to."

"I expected, James, you would accede to any proposition of mine relative to the boy; but be assured, if my destination of him should be contrary to your wishes or his inclination, I shall not be offended by a refusal."

He then briefly informed them of the arrangements he had made with Mr. Bernard.

"Now speak, Henry, your real sentiments; I have ever accustomed you to treat me as a friend."

Henry

Henry was delighted with his destiny, and with great sincerity thanked the General and Mr. Millward for their kind attention to his interest, and hoped his conduct would procure him the continuation of their patronage. As to James he could not express his joy that his son was to continue so near him."

"Your honours were always too good to me and mine; God reward you for it! we cannot."

"You have, James, by your faithful services merited our protection," said the General; "as to you, Henry, only follow the track you have been trained in, and pursue the same line of conduct.
you

you have hitherto done, and you will more than repay us for our protection."

In a few days the articles were drawn, signed, and sealed; and Henry entered on his new employment. Mr. Bernard received a fee of three-hundred pounds, and Henry had fifty pounds a-year allowed him for pocket money and clothes.

Edward with regret relinquished his youthful companion; but Mr. Smith pointed out to him the necessity of their taking different paths in life; at the same time he told Edward, he hoped the friendship between them would terminate only with their existence.

The

The ensuing summer was fixed on for Edward and Mr. Smith to make the tour of Great Britain and Wales; they were to spend one month in London previous to their setting off on their extensive excursion. It was Mr. Millward's design that his son should be thoroughly acquainted with his own country, its custom, manners, laws, and constitution; and that he should visit Ireland.

Before he made the grand tour, one day conversing on the subject with Mr. Smith, he expressed his surprise that our young men of fashion were suffered to visit foreign countries before they had a proper knowledge of their own.

“ The

"The observation," replied Mr. Smith, "is certainly just, and I attribute to this unpardonable neglect the follies and vices the young men acquire on their travels, and that contempt they too often at their return express for their own country: were their minds properly prepared; were they made to understand the different advantages each country enjoys according to its situation and climate; were they likewise to observe and pay due attention to the arts, manufactures, curiosities, and soil, and be fully sensible of the blessings and advantages which result from an extensive commerce; they then would certainly reap more solid improvement from their travels, yet would enjoy with double relish

relish the beauties and comforts of their native land."

Mrs. Owen had the pleasure of finding her pupils were universally admired.

Juliana, though only in her fourteenth year, had almost reached perfection in the different branches of education: her voice was uncommonly sweet, her ear perfectly correct, and her taste exquisite. She played on several instruments, but excelled particularly on the harp. She was mistress of painting in general, though landscapes was her favourite branch, and she took views from nature with an accuracy and correctness that astonished her master; the delicacy of her colours might vie with a Titian.

She

She and Matilda, accompanied by Mrs. Owen, often visited the Temple of the Muses. Mr. Smith and Edward generally joined them; the former gave lessons on geography, history, and astronomy; nor was Poetry neglected, they often courted her favours. Mr. Smith frequently conveyed his advice in rhyme, especially to Matilda and Juliana; by this means he blended praise with instruction.

CHAP. IV.

THE buildings and improvements at Thorpe were completed; and the cottage Mr. Millward had mentioned his design of erecting to the Marquis Vaena at the time he committed Juliana to his care, had been some time finished, in an elegant yet simple manner. The grounds were laid out with taste, which added to the extensive and beautiful prospect, it formed a most charming retreat. Many tenants

tenants had offered who had been politely refused; Mr. Millward being determined, if he could not let it according to his original plan, he would furnish it and keep it in his own hands. At length a lady applied whose appearance deeply interested Mr. Edward Montague in her favour, and he promised to inform the family at Upton of her proposals.

Early the next morning he rode over to the Hall; after the usual compliments—

“I am come to acquaint you,” said he, “that I have had an application for the cottage, which I think, my dear Sir, (addressing Mr. Millward,) will meet

your approbation. Yesterday as Fanny and I were sitting at breakfast, a post chaise stopped at the door, in which was a lady in deep mourning, and a handsome youth about fourteen: an elderly servant inquired if his lady could see the cottage; I immediately desired her to alight, and introduced Mrs. Montague to her. She seems to be between forty and fifty; her manners are prepossessing, and her language and deportment bespeak her to have moved in the highest sphere. She told me her name was Carre, that she was a widow, and her income small.

“ ‘This boy,’ continued she, ‘is my only surviving child:’ tears started in her eyes and for some minutes she
could

could not proceed; at length she resumed; ‘the great character the owners of this estate bear for every virtue, has determined me to seek an asylum on their domain, and I shall esteem it some alleviation of my misfortunes, if I am permitted to become an inhabitant of the beautiful cottage—I understand, Sir, that you have the letting of it.’

“I told her in some measure I had, and I was certain from her appearance, Mr. and Mrs. Millward would be happy to receive her for a tenant, as they wished to have an agreeable neighbour; that as soon as I had your answer I would let her know, and begged to be favoured with her address.”

“ ‘ My present place of residence, Sir,’ said she, ‘ is at a farm house at ——— where I have been about a month. I came into Devonshire for the express purpose of settling at this delightful village : I should have paid my respects to Mr. and Mrs. Millward, but waited for an introductory letter from an intimate friend, who had the pleasure of knowing the Colonel during the unhappy disturbances in the North. Not having received it as I expected, I grew impatient, and determined to pay you a visit and learn the particulars relative to the cottage.’ ”

“ We prevailed on Mrs. Carre to stay dinner ; Fanny and I were charmed with her conversation, and equally pleased with

with her son, who she told us was all a fond mother could wish."

"It must be the Earl of A——, who is her friend," said Mr. Millward; "I received great civilities from him during my stay in Scotland. Suppose me dear," (turning to Emma,) "we order the chaise and pay Mrs. Carre a visit."

"From the account I have just heard," replied Mrs. Millward, "I am all impatience to be known to her, and already anticipate the pleasure we shall receive from her society. As you imagine it is the Earl of A—— who interests himself in her favour, I think

we should pay every attention to her."

"I desire," said the General, "you will prevail on her to spend to-morrow at the Hall, and make my apology for not paying my respects in person, as my lameness makes me fearful of venturing out this severe weather."

He then

Mr. and Mrs. Millward, accompanied by Mr. E. Montague, in less than an hour reached Farmer Blunt's, the residence of Mrs. Carre: they were received with the greatest politeness; every word, every action of Mrs. Carre's bespoke her a person of the first fashion.

I "

"I know not how to express my thanks," said she, "for the polite condescension you have evinced by visiting one entirely unknown; but it confirms the character I have heard of the benevolence of Mr. and Mrs. Millward, that to be unfortunate is a sufficient plea to claim their protection. I am happy to have it in my power to convince them I am not entirely unworthy their notice: this morning's post has brought me the long-expected letter from the Earl of A——; some family concerns prevented my receiving it sooner. Give me leave," continued she smiling, "to present my credentials."

Mr. Millward bowed and took the letter, assuring her she needed no re-

commendation but her merit. She thanked him, but begged him to see what her friend had to say in her favour. He immediately obeyed, and having read it, gave it to Mrs. Millward, saying—

“ This lady and her son, my dear, are recommended in the warmest terms to our friendship by his Lordship; any request of his I should be happy in complying with, but in this instance he has added to the obligations I already owe him.”

The Earl of A—— had not entered into any particulars relative to Mrs. Carre; he only begged Mr. and Mrs. Millward's protection for her. ‘The
unhappy

unhappy disturbances in the North,' said his Lordship, 'has obliged Mrs. Carre to seek refuge with her only remaining child in England; particular circumstances oblige her to live retired, and for some time will involve her in mystery; even to you, my dear Sir, she must assume a borrowed name, but I flatter myself you will rely on my honor, and receive her as a most amiable woman, possessed of virtues and accomplishments that will merit your esteem. Favour her with your advice in regard to Charles; his education, as far as it is advanced, has been, you will find, of a superior kind: one fatal blow has destroyed his prospects, but he may yet rise superior to his misfortunes.'

Mr. and Mrs. Millward were strongly prepossessed in favour of both mother and son, and before they parted, it was agreed that Mrs. Carre should take possession of the Cottage; Mr. Millward insisted on furnishing it: they were so mutually pleased with each other that the visit was a long one. The General's message was not forgotten; Mrs. Carre promised to accept the invitation, and to accompany Mr. and Mrs. E. Montague to Upton Hall on the following day.

During the ride home Mrs. Carre and her son engrossed the conversation.

"I am convinced," said Mr. Millward,

"she

“she is the relic of one of the unfortunate noblemen, whose misguided principles led him to espouse the cause of the Pretender, and who fell a sacrifice to his imprudent zeal : but be that as it may, she and her child are entirely entitled by their situation to our care and attention.”

On their arrival at the Hall they related to the General all that had passed, and shewed him Lord A——’s letter : he agreed with Mr. Millward in his conjecture.

“Far be it from us,” said this worthy man, “to raise the veil ; as long as they think it necessary, let them remain in obscurity ; their unprotected state
has

has the strongest claims on our hospitality."

The next day the Montagues, Mrs. Carre, and her son, came at an early hour; the party was augmented by the family from the Rectory: Charles was introduced to the young folks, and Mr. Millward told Edward he presented him a companion worthy his esteem, and he hoped an intimacy would ensue, and shortly ripen into friendship

The boys were delighted with each other; the more Mrs. Millward conversed with Mrs. Carre, the more she was convinced of her rank. She had a most expressive countenance, and her person and deportment were graceful in the extreme :

trene : one might with propriety, in describing her, make use of an expression of the late celebrated Sterne, " with such an understanding it would be a shame to be handsome : " like his Eliza, her features could not be termed beautiful ; yet the whole contour of her face had something superior to it.

Mr. and Mrs. Millward had determined, if possible, to prevail on Mrs. Carre to become their guest till the cottage was properly aired and made ready for her reception. Mrs. Carre accepted this kind invitation, and Mr. E. Montague undertook to settle with Farmer Blunt, and to send the baggage and domestics the next day. They consisted of two faithful servants ; a
man

man and a maid who had lived many years in the family.

With this agreeable addition to the fire-side, six weeks passed; Mrs. Carre was charmed with the institutions and the various plans for the general good. The house and pleasure grounds excited her admiration, nor were her visits to the Hermit unfrequent: her mind gradually gained strength, and she acquired fortitude sufficient to bear her misfortunes like a Christian.

Mr. Smith had taken Charles under his tuition, and he took his lessons regularly with Edward.

Mrs. Carre and her son were so much domesticated

domesticated at the Hall, that notwithstanding every thing at the cottage was ready for her reception, and a strong girl hired to do the drudgery, the time of separation was protracted.

At last a day was fixed for her departure: the evening previous to it, the General perceived their social party was interrupted by an unusual gloom; the young folks in particular were disconcerted; even the lively Juliana was pensive. After a long pause in the conversation, he suddenly exclaimed—

“ I have something to propose which I hope will meet with the approbation of this good company; I shall put the question, most votes carry the day;

I do

I do think I shall gain my point, which I have set my heart upon : it is simply this—that the agreeable addition we have received to our family circle, and the acquisition my boy Edward has gained by the society of his young friend may not be interrupted, I vote that we continue one family. Mrs. Carré shall take possession of the cottage, as intended, to-morrow, and occasionally reside there ; but her permanent abode must absolutely be with us. We will take frequent excursions to Thorpe, and during the summer make parties to spend the day at her little retreat—now speak, good people.”

“ My dear grandpapa,” cried Juliana, “ you are always promoting our happiness ;

happiness; I am entirely of your opinion."

"And I," said Edward and Matilda in the same breath.

Mr. and Mrs. Millward said—

"You have, my dear Sir, not only our vote but interest also."

"Well, the majority is already in my favour: what says Mrs. Owen and Mr. Smith?"

"We are of the strongest side," was the reply; "indeed it would be with the greatest reluctance I should part with

with my newly acquired pupil," said the latter.

"Well," continued the General, "I shall carry my motion with flying colours, and I trust that Mrs. Carre and my young friend Charles will not oppose it."

Charles's eyes were fixed on his mother in the most supplicating manner: her feelings, which were very refined, were worked up to the highest pitch: Charles perceived the agitation of his mother and burst into tears; this roused her, and before she could express her thanks, the good General stopped her—

"My

“ My dearest madam, I am extremely hurt that my ill-timed pleasantry should distress you ; I wished for the continuance of your society, you will pardon an old man being a little selfish. Unable to go much abroad, I am naturally desirous to render home as agreeable and comfortable as possible ; but not for worlds would I put any restraint on your actions.”

“ My dear Sir,” replied Mrs. Carre, “ you entirely mistake my feelings ; they arise from joy and gratitude to Heaven, that in our affliction has raised us up such inestimable and powerful friends, whose kindness not only mitigates, but makes us almost forget our misfortunes. I should indeed be unworthy

thy your kindness if I slighted so generous an offer, and should be wanting in parental affection if I refused the great advantages my boy will receive from this union of families."

"Be assured, my dear madam, you have infinitely obliged us by consenting to this arrangement."

Charles expressed his thanks in very warm terms; Juliana was in high spirits, and begged the evening might conclude with a dance: the General seconded the request; his chief pleasure being that of gratifying every wish of his girls and boys as he termed them.

Each day added to Juliana's improvement;

ment; her understanding ripened and nearly reached maturity: she became anxious to have some information relative to her parents: she of late often hinted her wish to Mrs. Millward, who had hitherto evaded her questions on that subject; often would she discourse with Matilda and Edward, and entreat the latter to try and recollect every circumstance attending her first coming to Upton. He replied he perfectly well remembered her being brought to the Hall by a gentleman in deep mourning, whom she called papa, and that he caressed her as his child; but after staying a few days he left her, and promised to come again soon. Some months after, I asked my mother when Juliana's papa would come back, and was told
her

her parents were both dead, and that Mr. Seymour was only a distant relation, and that he had left England. I was, you know, too young to make any further inquiries : but why, my dearest Juliana, will you make yourself unhappy ; every thing bespeaks them to have been of rank, and you are certain your fortune is large.

One day Juliana had been particularly anxious and entreated Mrs. Owen, (whom next to Mrs. Millward she loved,) if possible to gratify her, and reveal the mystery of her birth.

“ My dear Juliana,” replied this excellent woman, “ suppress this idle curiosity, and cease to importune me ;
how

how often have I assured you that I am ignorant of any particular circumstances having attended your birth. Why should you suppose it is involved in mystery? you know that you lost your parents at an early period of your life, indeed in your infancy, and that you were left an orphan with a large fortune, to the care of Mr. and Mrs. Millward. You must be sensible they have in every respect faithfully discharged their duty, and reared you with the care and solicitude of the most indulgent parents; nay, I am certain you share their affection equally with Matilda and Edward: cease then, my child, to torment yourself, and rest assured if any thing is concealed from you, it will at a proper time be revealed; your im-

portunities hurt Mrs. Millward: let me beg of you to desist from them. You have I find been sounding of Mrs. Evans, but without effect: if she was entrusted with any secret event, she certainly would not, fondly as she loves you, betray the confidence reposed in her. You know she suckled your mother and has attended you from the first moment of your existence: promise me, my beloved pupil, to rest satisfied, and at least for the present let things remain as they are."

Juliana complied with Mrs. Owen's request in regard to ceasing all inquiries, but she could not suppress a wish to know the history of the authors of her being.

Mrs.

Mrs. Owen perceiving that Juliana was restless and uneasy, took occasion to mention it to the family, and related the different conversations she had had with her on this subject. This determined Mr. Millward to write to the Marquis, and desire his permission to inform Juliana of his existence and the rank she was entitled to: after stating his reasons for urging this request, he added—

“ You may depend on the discretion of Juliana ; that strength of mind so observable even in her infancy, encreases with her years—would to Heaven, my dear friend, you could see her; you would indeed pride yourself on being the father of so beautiful and so accom-

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plished

plished a girl: it is impossible to do justice to the virtues she possesses, or to describe the grace of every motion. The picture I send according to your orders; though well executed, it conveys only a faint idea of the original: Juliana's is a countenance that painting cannot delineate with any degree of accuracy; the worthy Evans says she is the counterpart of the late Marchioness her mother, only she has more vivacity of expression. What I mentioned in a former letter, every day confirms; that Edward, though totally unconscious of it, is perfectly sensible of your daughter's perfections, and that she views him with a partial eye. As you do me the honour to say you wish the alliance may take place, I shall let
things

things take their course; but I think that Juliana should be acquainted with her high birth and future expectations. Of Edward you shall form your own judgment, as next year I mean him to commence his travels, under the guidance of Mr. Smith : during h's stay at Madrid, I shall claim your protection for him."

Some months had elapsed and no answer had been received from the Marquis, which occasioned much uneasiness to Mr. and Mrs. Millward, as he had ever been a punctual correspondent, and in his last letter had expressed an impatience to have Juliana's picture. Father Edmund, to whom he wrote by

almost every packet, had not received a line : to account for his silence we must take a view of the transactions that happened at Madrid.

CHAP. V.

For some years the Marquis had enjoyed undisturbed tranquillity ; Sophronia was the affectionate wife, the tender mother, and the agreeable companion : his son, the young Alphonsa, was an elegant youth and strongly resembled his father : his little Elvira was a most charming child ; she was endued with every feminine and fascinating quality ; her features were the seat of softness, at

all times blushful and bewitching; the graces of symmetry and smoothness blended their perfections in the shape, complexion, and hair of Elvira: a musical education had added to these advantages the improvement of art; and no one could exhibit in the dance with more airy and transporting elegance: nor were the more valuable branches of learning neglected; the Marchioness herself had formed Elvira's mind, and assiduously cultivated every growing virtue. The Marquis fondly loved his children and devoted many hours to their improvement; he had the satisfaction of observing they made a great progress in their education, yet a sigh would sometimes escape him as he listened to the praises of Alphonsa
and

and his sister, at the thought of being forever separated from his Juliana : most ardently did he wish to repose the secret in the bosom of Sophronia, and form some pretext to visit England ; but his vow he held too sacred to break, and the age and increasing infirmities of the Duke, joined to the post he filled at court, was a bår to his being absent even for a short period.

The calm which the Marquis had so long experienced, was destined to be interrupted by a most severe and unexpected blow.

The family resided occasionally at a pleasant villa within a few miles of Madrid, it stood on the verge of the FOREST

of ST. BERNARDO. Frequently the youthful Alphonsa attended only by his governor and one domestic, rode out and returned to breakfast; sometimes they extended their ride and spent the day at a Castle which stood in the Forest, belonging to the Duke of Torcella, whose son and Alphonsa were in the habits of the strictest intimacy: one of these excursions proved fatal to Alphónsa; he had set out rather earlier than common with his usual escort, intending to pass a long morning with his young friend Ferdinand; the weather being uncommonly sultry, they struck out of the high road into a more shady one which was seldom frequented, except by foot passengers that had business at the Castle. They had not
proceeded

proceeded far when they were alarmed by the trampling of horses ; before they had time to reflect, they were surrounded by six armed men in masks, who instantly seized Alphonsa. It is impossible to describe the consternation of his governor ; resistance was in vain, as neither he nor the servant had any weapon of defence, and the spot was far from any habitation ; the Castle they were going to was the nearest, and that was two miles distant. He sat motionless with horror till he was aroused by the voice of Alphonsa, crying for help and begging him to save him ; he rent the air with exclamations for assistance. One who seemed to have the command of the assassins in a feigned voice, said—

"Dispatch the boy, and stop the noise of that man."

The servant perceiving three of their daggers raised to murder his young Lord, rushed between and received the point of one of them in his own breast, at that instant the other two ruffians stabbed Alphonsa to the heart, and he expired instantly. The governor, who had struggled with the man who held him, was shockingly mangled, and fell covered with wounds.

"Have you made all sure?" was asked by the leader of the gang in a whisper.

"We have, my Lord," was the reply
in

in the same low voice, "what shall we do with the bodies?"

Before he could answer, the sound of a distant halloo disturbed them, and they struck into the thicket and in an instant disappeared.

In less than ten minutes two peasants arrived at the fatal spot. Alphonsa and the governor had no signs of life, but the servant opened his eyes and endeavoured to speak; they poured a little brandy down his throat and bound up his wounds which had bled a good deal; he in a faint voice briefly related the horrid tale, and conjured them to get help and pursue the murderers: one of
the

the men ran to the Castle and the other remained with the servant.

The Duke of Torcella and family were struck with horror on hearing of the melancholy tale ; Ferdinand was inconsolable. The servants were immediately armed and dispatched different ways ; a carriage was sent to convey the bodies of Alphonsa and the governor to the Castle ; a surgeon attended to assist the servant and to examine the wounds of the others, in hopes that life was still remaining. The account the peasants gave was, they heard the most shocking shrieks, and perceived they came from the path that led to the Castle, they quickened their pace but arrived too late to afford any succour to the victim ; had they
been

been armed they would instantly have pursued the murderers, but they hoped, as the Forest was intricate, they would be taken.

Every effort was made to restore animation to the young Alphonsa ; he was still warm when his body arrived at the Castle, but life had forever fled ; the servant being too weak to answer any questions was ordered to be taken care of. The Duke of Torcella sincerely felt for the parents and relations of this lovely boy, the only hope of one of the first and most ancient houses in Spain. He was at a loss how to break it to the family in terms the most likely to soften the horrors of his recital ; before the return of the people he had sent in pursuit,

suit, he set off for the Marquis's villa, attended by several domestics well armed, as he thought it might be a set of banditti that perpetrated this shocking murder ; yet it was scarcely probable. For years no robbery had happened ; the traveller had at all hours of the night pursued his way in safety : nothing had been taken either from Alphonsa or his governor ; the life of the youth was certainly what they aimed at.

Bewildered with reflection on the melancholy occurrence, the Duke found himself at the residence of the Marquis. It was nearly sun-set : the stay of Alphonsa had excited no alarm, as he often returned by moon-light. The unexpected visit of the Duke surprised them ;

them; as he entered the drawing room he could not conceal the agitation of his mind, which Sophronia perceiving, exclaimed with eagerness :

“Where is Alphonsa ? has any thing happened to my son ? your Grace’s manner leads me to imagine that something unusual has occurred.”

The Duke without answering Sophronia, said, he had business of great importance to communicate to the Marquis, and must beg leave to speak to him in private.

Alonza arose to attend the Duke, but he too had caught the alarm, and a universal tremor seized him ; they had just

just reached the door of the apartment when Sophronia, whose feelings had nearly overpowered her, cried—

“For Heaven sake! my Lord, relieve my anxiety; something I am certain has befel my child. Oh! do not attempt to deceive a mother, nor keep me longer in suspense.”

The Duke perceiving the mind of Sophronia was prepared for some fatal stroke, returned, and with as much composure as he could assume, said—

“What I have to relate may as well be told here; be seated, my dear friends; I am concerned to be the messenger of
ill

ill news, but an accident has happened to the Lord Alphonsa."

"Of what kind?" interrupted the Marquis, "does my boy still live?"

Sophronia had fainted, the attendants were called to carry her to her apartment, and the Duke in the tenderest manner informed the Marquis as far as he had learnt of the dreadful particulars of his son's fate. The Marquis raised his eyes to Heaven:

"Almighty Providence!" cried he, "enable me to bear this afflicting stroke, and, oh! inspire me with the means of comforting my Sophronia, my father, and

and the good Don Sebastian, whose lives, I fear, are entwined in this dear boy."

At that instant a party of the Duke's servants had arrived, they had been unsuccessful in tracing the assassins, but others were still in pursuit. The household were no sooner informed of this sad event, than they begged to be permitted to join in the search.

Alphonsa was idolized by them, and their lamentations added greatly to the distress of the Marquis ; a message from Sophronia requesting to see the Duke and him, aroused Alonza from a state of stupefaction, and he paced the room in an agony of grief. For some time the Duke vainly endeavoured to calm his emotions,

emotions, and inspire him with fortitude to meet the Marchioness ; at length he in some measure succeeded, and he conducted the Duke to her apartment. They found that admirable woman perfectly composed, though her countenance betrayed the strongest marks of affliction, blended with resignation.

“I will spare, your Grace,” said she, as they entered, “the painful task of repeating the sad tale : my child is murdered ! the particulars of the barbarous act, at present, I cannot bear to hear. (Observing a wildness in the looks of Alonza,) For my sake, my beloved husband,” said she, taking his hand, “do not suffer your feelings to overpower you ;

you ; exert yourself and aid my feebleness to bear with patience this dire event. Oh ! let us bow submissive to the stroke, and fervently implore the Almighty to endue us with strength to bear our affliction. We have yet a dreadful task to perform, to acquaint our parents with—”

Sophronia could not proceed, her voice failed her, and she threw herself in the arms of the Marquis ; this action recalled his recollection, and pressing her tenderly to his breast, he burst into a violent flood of tears which after some time greatly relieved him.

“ My life, my love,” said he, as soon as he could articulate ; “ thou best of women,

'women, yes, for thy sake I will exert myself, and endeavour to bear my sorrows like a man.'

The Duke, who had remained silent during this affecting scene, perceiving they were more composed, insisted on their taking some refreshment and retiring to rest.

"It is now, my dear friends, near morning, in a few hours I will set off for Madrid, and inform the minister of the unhappy circumstance which prevents you from attending at court; leave every thing to me, even the painful office of conveying the sad intelligence to the Duke your father and Don Sebastian."

Sophronia,

Sophronia, who was quite exhausted, consented to retire, but the Marquis insisted on staying with the Duke of Torcella, as he anxiously expected the return of the different parties sent in search of the ruffians.

By eight in the morning they all came back unsuccessful, not a trace of the villains could be found ; this excited great astonishment, and alarmed the whole country, as the Forest had been considered perfectly safe, nor had there been a murder or robbery committed in the memory of the oldest man living.

The more the Marquis revolved these circumstances in his mind, the more he was convinced that Don Gusman was the

the perpetrator of this atrocious murder; but he was totally at a loss how to proceed, or what steps to take in order to detect him. Ever since his banishment, he and Donna Triphosa had lived perfectly retired, and far removed from the capital; not the least intercourse had taken place between the families: this determined him to keep his suspicions to himself, at least for the present; he flattered himself that the servant would be able to give some information on the subject, and he resolved as soon as the Duke of Torcella set off for Madrid, to ride over to the Castle and question the man, and at the same time to indulge himself in the melancholy pleasure of viewing the body of his son. Finding Sophronia had risen, he paid her a visit;

he found her in tears but seemingly calm ; the little Elvira was seated by her, whose innocent grief for her brother on whom she doated added to the affliction of her parents : the Marquis taking her tenderly in his arms, soothed her and charged her to do every thing in her power to comfort her mother, which the poor child sobbing promised to do ; but her heart was ready to break, which the Marquis perceiving rang, and ordered the servant to take Elvira to her governess and to desire she would endeavour to amuse her ; but Sophronia starting exclaimed—

“ Oh ! do not deprive me of my only child, she too will be murdered.”

“ My

"My dearest love, be composed, she shall not leave you; I trust Providence will ever protect her from the wicked machinations that has deprived us of our amiable and lovely boy."

"My Alonza," said Sophronia, pressing the Marquis's hand and fixing her eyes earnestly on his face; "tell me, does not the same idea strike us, our darling Alphonsa has fallen a sacrifice to the infernal malice and ambition of Gusman and Triphosa; their revenge has laid smothered so many years only to burst with ten-fold violence on our devoted heads?"

"You have, my Sophronia, penetrated my thoughts; I do indeed impute the

guilty deed to them ; but we must act with caution, nor dare accuse them till we have something to alledge that will amount to proof. The Duke of Torcella has promised to return as soon as possible ; to him and him alone I shall impart our suspicions and take his counsel ; in the mean time I shall go to the Castle and interrogate Peter. Poor Father Austin, we have scarcely thought of him, he too fell a victim ; (Sophronia's tears flowed a fresh ;) he was a truly pious man, and had had the educating of Alphonsa from four years old."

"Let me," said Sophronia, "accompany you, I must once more embrace my child."

"Most

"Most certainly you shall, my love; but let me entreat you will rest tranquil this day; I will not be absent long; have no fears for my safety; I will take my faithful Pedro and four other of our domestics well armed."

Sophronia still pressed to go, but the Marquis prevailed, and she consented he should depart without her.

It is impossible to describe the sensations of the Marquis during the ride; he struck into the path that led to the fatal spot, and when he reached it he was quite unmanned; his attendants were little less affected, especially Pedro. The blood was yet visible, and a dagger lay at the foot of a tree; Pedro dismounted, and taking it up the poor fellow burst

into tears, perceiving it bloody up to the hilt ;

“This,” says he, “is the cursed instrument that deprived my young Lord of life, may it be the means of bringing the murderers to justice.”

The Marquis was so enveloped in gloomy reflections that he heeded not what Pedro had been saying, nor did he notice his having picked up the dagger.

A profound silence ensued till they reached the Castle. The Dutchess of Torcella and her son received the Marquis with every mark of affection ; they were sensibly affected by his recent loss : his looks shocked her Grace exceedingly ;
his

his soul seemed harrowed up, a thought struck her, she led him to the room where the lifeless bodies of Alphonsa and Father Austin lay on different sofas, the former beautiful even in death ; there was a strong expression of fear on his countenance, otherwise (as they had closed his eyes, he looked a sleep :) every respect and attention had been paid ; the apartment had been hung with black velvet and lighted with wax tapers in silver branches ; attendants in deep mourning sat in silence around the corpse. The Marquis stood absorbed in contemplation ; at length he was aroused from his painful reverie by the sobs of young Ferdinand.

“Thanks, my dear boy,” cried he,

F 4

embracing

embracing him with fervour ; “ thanks for this mark of affection to your departed friend.”

The tears involuntary flowed ; the Duchess joined hers. After viewing the lifeless body of his son and examining his wounds, he turned to that of Father Austin’s which was shockingly mangled :

“Thou excellent man,” cried he, “ these wounds prove what you suffered in endeavouring to save the life of thy beloved pupil. Mayst thou receive the reward of all thy goodness from our Heavenly Father. Now, Madam, with your leave, I will visit poor Peter, whom I hear with satisfaction, is in a fair way of recovery.”

The Duchess assured the Marquis he was, and that every care had been taken. Observing the Marquis seemed quite exhausted, she requested he would defer his visit till he had taken some refreshment.

We will now leave him to examine Peter, and as he could give no satisfactory intelligence relative to the murder, we will follow the Duke of Torcella to Madrid.

CHAP. VI.

THE first steps the Duke of Torcella took was to wait on the minister, and acquaint him with the melancholy circumstance which prevented the Marquis Vaena from attending his duty at court, and of the extreme distress of the family. The Minister was much shocked, and begged the Duke to wait till he communicated the circumstance to his Majesty, who, as soon as he was informed of

of it, desired the Duke to attend him in his closet. After minutely inquiring into every particular, he ordered parties of soldiers to scour the Forest in every direction, to continue their search for miles round, and to offer a reward of a thousand pistoles and a free pardon to any of the accomplices who would give up the instigator of this atrocious murder.

The Duke of Torcella next drove to the Duke of Ildefonsa ; he found with him only Don Sebastian ; with the utmost caution he disclosed the occasion of his visit, and endeavoured to prepare them for the dreadful stroke he was reluctantly going to inflict. But with all his precaution it proved almost too much

for the Duke and Don Sebastian to support ; to relate the scene that followed would only be a repetition of what has already been described ; suffice it to say, that the Duke of Torcella used every argument religion and reason could suggest to inspire them with fortitude to bear with some degree of resignation the death of their adored grandson. At length they became sufficiently composed to hear all that he knew on the subject ; the Duke St. Ildefonsa remained some time in mental prayer, then raising his eyes to Heaven, exclaimed with fervency :

“Thy will, O Lord, be done ! the fatal prophecy is then fulfilled, that no immediate descendant of mine should inherit

inherit my title." Then recollecting himself, he said—"My son, my dear Alonza, still lives: spare, oh! spare him, Heaven."

"What mean you, Sir?" asked the Duke of Torcella with evident surprise, "your words impart some dreadful mystery."

"Your Grace," replied the Duke St. Ildefonsa, "must pardon me, if for the present I decline explaining myself; a time may come when you shall be acquainted with the meaning of my words."

The Duke bowed, and politely dropped the subject.

At

At the instant the Minister was announced, who was a very old friend of the family; he sincerely sympathized in their affliction, and brought a message of condolence from the King, and informed them of the great exertions making to discover the murderer.

Don Sebastian was particularly desirous for the immediate removal of the Marquis and Marchioness to Madrid, as he feared for their safety.

"Some secret enemy," continued he, "lurks in that fatal Forest, and be assured the lives of our son and daughter are at stake; it is no common foe we have to deal with, nor will his malice stop till he has extirpated our race."

"Does

"Does your suspicions fall on any one?" asked the Minister.

Don Sebastian recollecting he had said too much, evaded giving a direct answer, saying—

"Excuse me, my Lord, I hardly know what to think; time, I trust, will develope this dark affair."

The Duke of Torcella now took his leave, being impatient to return to his friends; Don Sebastian wished to accompany him, but the Duke St. Ildefonsa so earnestly requested he would not quit him, that he acquiesced on a promise that on the following day the Marquis

quis and Marchioness should return to Madrid.

The Duke of Torcella found the Marquis just returned from his Castle ; he related all that had passed, and the request of Don Sebastian that they would quit the villa and take up their abode in the capital ; he mentioned his surprise at the fears Don Sebastian expressed for their safety. The Marquis, after thanking the Duke for so kindly interesting himself in his affairs, communicated his strong suspicions of Don Gusman and Donna Triphosa being the instigators of the murder.

“ And, I dare say, (addressing himself
to

to Sophronia,) your father is of the same opinion."

After some consultation on the subject, it was determined to send Pedro to the place of Don Gusman's residence, and to make the most minute inquiries relative to the state of the family.

"But I must," said the Marquis, "caution him against being known; for should Gusman discover him, I am certain the poor fellow would be dispatched, and I should never forgive myself for being the occasion of his losing his life."

Pedro was summoned, and the proper instructions given, and a strict charge not to be too venturesome. He promised

mised his master to pay strict obedience to his commands, and proposed disguising himself as a peasant and setting off that evening.

It was settled that the Duke of Torcella's family and the Marquis and Marchioness with little Elvira, should leave the country early in the morning, and till the funeral rites were performed they were to reside at the Duke St. Ildefonsa's palace. The meeting was affecting in the extreme, and what added to the distress of the Marquis was finding the shock of Alphonsa's untimely death had brought on the gout in the Duke's stomach.

The body of Alphonsa was brought
to

to the Marquis's hotel, where after laying in state during three days, it was deposited in the family vault with great funeral pomp, and every ceremony of the Roman Catholic Church duly performed. In respect to the memory of Father Austin, he was interred by the side of his young Lord ; a superb monument was erected, on which was engraved the particulars of their death.

In less than three weeks Pedro returned. The Marquis was much surprised to hear that Don Gusman and Donna Triphosa had been absent from Spain above two years, and resided in a retired village in the south of France : only a few domestics remained on the estate. Pedro got acquainted with the
man

man who acted as steward, who told him, Gusman had had several children, but had lost all except the eldest son, and that on account of his being in an ill state of health, the physicians had advised a milder climate ; that the family intended to return home shortly, but was at present prevented by the illness of Don Gusman. This was all Pedro could learn ; this instead of throwing any light on the affair, only deepened the mystery, yet far from removing the suspicions of the Marquis and Don Sebastian, it only combined them.

The soldiers had not been able to make the least discovery, nor had the reward offered, though doubled by the Duke, produced any information.

An

An obelisk had been erected on the spot where Alphonsa and Father Austin were murdered, with a suitable inscription. The villa was entirely deserted, as neither the Duke nor Don Sebastian would permit the Marquis or Marchioness ever again to inhabit it.

The packet from Mr. Millward containing Juliana's picture, had arrived the morning the Marquis left the Forest, and not choosing to open it before the Marchioness, he put it into his writing box, anxious as he ever had been to hear of his idolized daughter : so totally had his thoughts been engrossed and his time occupied in endeavouring to support the spirits of the Duke, of his Sophronia, and Don Sebastian, that he never
once

once recollected having received the packet.

Three months had elapsed, and time had in some measure softened the grief of the Marquis and enabled him to bear his loss with resignation. One morning looking into his writing desk the parcel caught his eye, on opening it various sensations assailed him; the sight of Juliana's picture, the strong likeness it bore to the late Marchioness struck him forcibly; he gazed on it for some minutes with painful transports, (as it recalled scenes long past,) then raising it to his lips emprinted enthusiastic kisses on the inanimate representative of his child.

“Thou

"Thou dear resemblance of thy ever lamented mother, oh! could I clasp thee to my heart and hear thy voice, I could die content."

After reading Mr. Millward's and Father Edmund's letters, he thus addressed the miniature:

"And dost thou, dearest innocent, wish to know the authors of thy being? in that request at least you shall be gratified: the dead Saint, thy angelic mother, permitted that when you was in a proper age, you should be informed of every circumstance relative to your parents. What if I break my vow and own my child! yet what would that avail? Gusman and Triphosa would murder
murder

murder her, for oh! too sure, they and they alone deprived me of my son."

Alonza had worked himself up to a pitch of frenzy; Pedro entered with a message from the Duke: on perceiving the agitated state of the Marquis, he hesitated, and was going to withdraw: the Marquis observing him, called him back.

"See, my faithful Pedro," said he grasping his hand with violence, "look at this picture and tell me whom you think it is done for?"

Pedro took it trembling; the vehemence

mence of his master, and the wild expression of his eyes alarmed him.

“My honoured Lord, what has discomposed you thus?” Examining the picture, he exclaimed, “Gracious Heaven! it is the late Marchioness, the exact copy of herself.”

“Yes, Pedro, it is indeed the copy, the only copy she has left me.”

“My Lord, is it possible? can it be drawn for Lady Juliana; she whom you left an infant to the care of Mr. Millward?”

“The same, Pedro; and if I am not flattered, she inherits with her dear
VOL. III. G departed

departed mother's beauty, all her virtues and perfections."

The Marquis's mind, weakened by recent calamity, was overpowered by the recollection of scenes which he had ever endeavoured to obliterate from his memory ; at this instant they returned with double force : Pedro did all in his power to sooth the perturbation of Alonza's mind. After some time, he grew more composed ; but it was with the utmost exertion he could subdue his feelings and meet the family at dinner.

Sophronia, ever attentive to his looks, and who sedulously watched every change in his countenance, perceived the

the conflict in his bosom, and on his leaving the table sooner than usual, followed him, and entreated to know what fresh cause of sorrow had assailed him. The tears, the solicitations of the amiable Marchioness made him almost forget his vow, and he had nearly revealed the secret he had with so much caution concealed from her so many years. A dread of violating his promise to the dead alone restrained him, and he only told her that some papers he had been looking over had recalled afflicting scenes long past : embracing her with tenderness, he abruptly quitted her, promising to rejoin her in less than an hour.

Though by no means satisfied by

Alonza's answer and manner of leaving her, yet Sophronia determined not to importune him with any further inquiries, for she ever thought some secret grief at times preyed on his mind.

It was some days before the Marquis obtained sufficient tranquillity to write to his friends in England: he apologized to Mr. Millward for his long silence and seeming neglect, and, entered into a minute detail of the unhappy circumstance which had occasioned it. He described the mixed emotions of pleasure and pain the sight of Juliana's picture caused him; and the great self-denial he experienced by not producing to the world his lovely daughter. He consented not only to her being inform-
ed

ed that she had a father living, but desired she might be permitted to peruse the manuscript, "which, with my letter," continued Alonza, "will make her completely mistress of the fate of her parents: tell the dear girl all I have suffered and still do suffer on her account; assure her that never father's breast beat with more parental affection than mine: you say she is endowed with judgment far above her years; tell me, my friend, her sentiments on my conduct; if indeed she has the same heavenly disposition her revered mother possessed, she will not only pardon, but pity and love me. I have no objection to your domestic circle being informed of my daughter's rank; but let it, my dear friend, be confined to them: Ju-

Juliana must retain the name of Seymour. No part of your letter afforded me more pleasure than the hint of the growing affection of Edward and Juliana, and your intentions of entrusting the former to my care: believe me during his stay at Madrid he shall experience the same tender solicitude you have shown my child. Mr. Smith has also a strong claim on my friendship, for he has helped to form the mind of Juliana; tell my young friend Edward I am prepared to love him, and that he must consider me as an indulgent father. My Sophronia will receive and treat him as the son of my dearest and best friend. I write this packet to good Father Edmund; I trust his pious admonitions will enable me to bear my recent loss with the fortitude

titude of a christian : yet, oh ! Millward
had you seen my boy. . . . But I must
stop my pen and conclude in haste.

Ever yours,

with unalterable friendship and esteem,

VAENA."

We must now convey the reader to
Devonshire, where news from the Mar-
quis was expected by Mr. and Mrs.
Millward with the greatest impatience.

CHAP. VII.

AFTER an absence of three months, Edward and Mr. Smith were just returned from making the tour of England and Wales; this was the first time the youthful lovers (for such they were though hardly conscious of it) had been separated for any length of time: the sensations the meeting excited in the breasts of Edward and Juliana, convinced them how dear they were to each other,

other, and that their attachment exceeded the bounds of brotherly and sisterly affection: this discovery threw a restraint on the conduct of Juliana; she no longer called him her dear Edward; a blush suffused itself over her countenance whenever he addressed her; this alteration in her behaviour would have given Edward great uneasiness, had not her expressive eyes betrayed to him the real state of her heart, and convinced him it arose alone from an innate modesty. This heightened the passion of Edward, and he determined, before he left Upton, to open his mind to his father, and request his permission to avow his love to Juliana.

The arrival of letters from the Mar-

quis relieved his friends from a state of suspense, but the contents plunged them in sorrow : as parents they felt severely the loss he had sustained by the untimely death of Alphonsa : the perusal of his affecting epistle cost them many tears. They were at a loss how to acquaint Juliana with the history of her parents, as they were fearful it would make a deep impression on her too susceptible mind. The General proposed consulting Mr. Smith and Mrs. Owen.

“ They fondly love our Juliana, and will assist us in preparing her for the important discovery ; for I cannot bear the idea that charming flow of spirits the dear

dear girl possesses should meet with any interruption."

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Owen were much flattered by the confidence reposed in them; the former proposed the discovery should be made in the course of the day.

"In the mean time Mrs. Owen may apprise Miss Seymour of it, by saying that Mr. Millward had obtained leave to gratify her curiosity relative to her family, and be assured, my dear Sir," addressing the General, "you need not be apprehensive on Miss Seymour's account, as I am certain, notwithstanding her feelings are exquisitely refined and tremblingly alive to every tale of woe,

even if it does not concern her, yet are they so properly regulated and so much under the controul of reason, that depend on it she will bear the discovery she has so long wished for, with an equanimity that will evince her understanding is far more mature than could be expected at her age."

"I perfectly agree with you," said Mr. Millward; "Juliana has an uncommon strength of mind."

"It is lucky," observed Mrs. Millward, "that Mrs. Carre and Charles are at the Cottage, as being unknown to the Marquis he could not mean to include them in our domestic circle.

Do

Do you intend, my dear Henry to present Juliana with the casket?"

"Certainly, my dear, and every thing it contains excepting the papers, which I shall still take the charge of."

As soon as the family adjourned to the drawing room, Mr. Millward addressed Juliana nearly as follows :

"The period, my dearest Juliana, is at length arrived that is to gratify your anxious desire of knowing to whom you owe your being; every thing relative to your birth and connections will now be revealed; the reasons for the secrecy which has been observed, this paper will inform

inform you ; it is written by your father the Marquis Vaena, only son to the Duke St. Ildefonso, and addressed to me previous to your being consigned to our care. You will find the Marchioness your mother died in your infancy, that the sea and an insurmountable bar divides you from your only surviving parent, and prevents him from acknowledging you publicly as his daughter ; yet believe me when I assure you, that every asseveration he makes of his unbounded affection for you is the genuine dictates of a noble heart, superior to falsehood. Will you, my love, retire and peruse it, or shall I read it, as I have the Marquis's leave to acquaint all that is present with the contents ?”

Juliana

Juliana was visibly agitated. "Gracious God!" she exclaimed, "does my father live?" and throwing herself into Mrs. Millward's arms, burst into a violent flood of tears.

As soon as she recovered some degree of serenity, she begged Mr. Millward would do her the favour to read the manuscript, which affected the whole party. Juliana heard it with the strictest attention; she seemed almost afraid to breathe, yet her sensibility was often put to the proof: Edward was uncommonly agitated, and when he congratulated her on the rank and splendid prospects that awaited her, as he raised her hand to his lips an involuntary sigh escaped

escaped him, and his voice faltered in addressing her as Lady Juliana, who trembled exceedingly. She had suppressed her feelings which were wound to the highest pitch : various sensations rose in her bosom and almost overpowered her ; Mr. Millward seeing her ready to faint, said--

“ Retire, my love, Edward and Matilda will accompany you ; when you are sufficiently composed, return, and I will relate the sequel of the Marquis’s melancholy story.”

As soon as the young friends left the room--

“ I think,” cried the General, “ Edward

ward and Juliana have betrayed their secrets to us : I will venture to pronounce that this discovery will produce a declaration of his attachment ; if it should, how do you intend to act, Henry ?”

“ I shall, my dear Sir, in some measure be guided by circumstances, yet as we intend Edward to set out early next month on his tour to Scotland and Ireland, and almost immediately on his return to pursue his travels, if you and Emma approve of it, I shall inform them of the Marquis’s sentiments in his favour : the only objection is, they are too young to enter into an irrevocable engagement ; but as they will be separated for two or three years, that will be done away.

away. An attachment to so lovely and-deserving an object will, I trust, prevent Edward's forming any improper engagements or connections."

"For that, my dear Sir," said Mr. Smith, "I will venture to pledge my Honour; even without the strong tie that binds him to Lady Juliana. Edward has, I grant, strong passions and a natural warmth of temper; but young as he is, I think him perfectly under the controul of reason, and such is my opinion of the rectitude of his mind and the goodness of his heart, that I flatter myself I shall bring him back to his native country without having imbibed any of those vices which disgrace

so many of our young men of fashion."

"Under your guidance," replied Mrs. Millward, "I shall not have an anxious moment on my son's account, during his residence on the Continent."

The General expressed his surprise at the long absence of the juvenile party.

"If I thought I should not interrupt an interesting love scene," said Mrs. Millward, "I would go in search of them."

Nor was Mrs. Millward mistaken in her

her conjecture ; the unexpected discovery had thrown Edward off his guard by awakening his fears of losing Juliana. His natural impetuosity burst forth ; as soon as they entered the garden, he seized the hand of Juliana and his sister, and conducted them to the pavilion in silence.

As soon as they entered, he threw himself at the feet of the former, and in the most empassioned language declared he adored her, and conjured her as she valued his existence to consent to be his before he left England, lest the Marquis should forbid their union.

The abruptness of his entering on a subject so interesting to her feelings,
joined

joined to the already agitated state of her mind; was too much even for the fortitude of Juliana, and she fainted in his arms. This in a moment roused him to a conviction of the impropriety of his conduct, and he stood like a statue: Matilda gently chid him for his rashness, and though much affected, yet was sufficiently composed to administer relief; by the assistance of salts and giving Juliana air, she soon restored her; Edward fell on his knees and entreated pardon.

“ Can you, my idolized Juliana, forgive the vehemence of my temper, for which I can plead no excuse? but believe me the effects it has produced will teach me to correct it in future; nor, by
Heaven,

Heaven, shall it ever again master my reason; speak, my love, I conjure you, say that you do not hate me."

Juliana, whose dignity of mind was happily blended with sweetness of disposition, elegance of manners, and real sensibility, was far superior to the little arts too often practised by the sex, and scorning, by affecting anger she did not feel, to inflict unnecessary pain on one whom her heart told her she really loved, held out her hand, and with a smile, said—

" My dearest Edward, let me entreat of you to rise, or I shall really fancy myself some heroine of romance; the time,
the

the romantic situation you have chosen. . . .”

She was going on, but Edward stopped her, by conjuring her not to trifle with his feelings, or add the torture of suspense to his already agonized heart.

“No, my dear Edward,” she replied, fixing her fine and expressive eyes on his, whilst a modest blush overspread her lovely visage, “I have no intention to give you a moment’s pain ; you have ever possessed my affections, but for the present let us drop a subject, which, before I consent to listen to, must be sanctioned by those I must ever revere as my parents. It is time we return to
the

the family, as I am very impatient to hear the subsequent events of the Marquis Vaena."

"You shall be obeyed, my charming Juliana; only permit me to say that tomorrow I mean to acquaint our parents with my, may I add, our mutual attachment."

She bowed assent, and Edward kissing her hand with rapture, led her out of the pavilion.

She had perfectly regained her serenity, and no ill effects remained from the surprise occasioned by the unexpected declaration; on the contrary the animated glow that usually adorned her cheeks

cheeks was considerably heightened, and never did Juliana appear more beautiful or interesting than when they re-entered the drawing room; her anxious friends rejoiced to find her quite composed; as to Edward he seemed to tread in air, and his eyes sparkled with uncommon brilliancy; in short the whole party were convinced the lovers had come to an explanation. At Juliana's request, Mrs. Millward related every particular relative to the Marquis. Juliana was greatly shocked by the melancholy catastrophe of the young Alphonsa.

Mrs. Millward presented her with the jewels and trinkets belonging to the late Marchioness and Mrs. Beaumont;

the picture of her mother gave her most pleasure, and she pressed it to her lips with an enthusiasm so natural to youth ; she asked if she might be permitted to write to the Marquis ; Mr. Millward promised to inform him of her request.

“ Till I have leave to address him, will you, my dear Sir, say I already love and respect him ; assure the Marquis, my dear father, (I cannot renounce the appellation,) that my breast beats with filial affection, and that he shall ever find me a dutiful child : tell him I feel much more than I can express.”

“ Enough, my dear girl,” said Mr. Millward fondly kissing her ; “ I hope I shall

shall ever prove myself a father to you ; neyer will I give up the pleasure of calling you daughter. As you are still to retain the name of Seymour, every thing that has passed must be confined to this circle. Ah ! would I might inform Father Edmond : he, my love, has long known every circumstance and holds a constant correspondence with the Marquis, so you are perfectly free to discourse with that excellent man on the subject."

The next morning as soon as breakfast was over, Edward followed his father to the library and laid open every secret of his heart. After a long and interesting conversation, Edward had the satisfaction of finding his sentiments

and love for Juliana met with the approbation of his father and family; but words cannot describe his transports on perusing the Marquis's letters.

"And will he consent to bestow his charming daughter on me?" cried he, "what ecstatic bliss is mine!"

"Moderate, my dear boy, these violent sallies, nor suffer the wild flights of fancy to conquer your understanding: do not imagine that the union between you and Juliana is to take place till after you return from your travels; you are both at present much too young to enter the marriage state, nor will I suffer either of you to contract any engagement that cannot be revoked, which I
do

do, not approve of even at a maturer age: at the same time remember that a man of honour will ever hold his promise sacred, and that no crime, seduction excepted, can be more enormous than that of gaining the affections of an artless innocent girl, and afterwards breaking vows voluntarily made; but I flatter myself, my dear Edward, the rectitude of your morals, the integrity of your heart, and above all your religious principles will make any farther admonitions on the subject unnecessary. In Mr. Smith you have not only a kind monitor, but a steady and sincere friend; whose enlightened mind, long experience and perfect knowledge of mankind will conduct you safely through the ordeal fire, which every young man

In an elevated line of life is exposed to. May you, my son, return to my arms what you now are, and I shall not have a wish ungratified."

"Thou best of fathers receive my thanks, and be assured your words are deeply engraven on my heart: ever shall it be my study and ambition to merit the approbation of my parents, and that of my adored Juliana."

"Go, my son, seek Juliana, give her the Marquis's letters, which, tell her I only withheld till I was certain the contents would afford her pleasure."

As Edward was quitting the library,
the

the General and Mrs. Millward entered.

"Juliana and Matilda," said the latter, "are gone to the Hermitage, Edward, and desired you would follow them."

"An injunction," replied he, "my dear mother, I shall be happy to obey."

Juliana had in the most artless and candid manner repeated all that had passed between Edward and her, and blushing owned her attachment. Mrs. Millward embraced her with maternal affection, and assured her the right to call her daughter, and to see her be-

loved son united to such excellence was the first wish of her heart. As to the good General hardly could he keep his joy within bounds, and had it depended entirely on him, the young people would have entered the marriage state immediately. This he hinted to Mr. and Mrs. Millward, who with some difficulty at length convinced him of the propriety of delaying it till Edward attained the age of twenty-one, of which he wanted above two years.

"Consider, my dear Sir," said Mr. Millward, "Juliana will at that period be little more than eighteen."

The good hermit sincerely rejoiced at the prospect, though remote, of Edward's

ward's and Juliana's happiness; by his truly fatherly advice he moderated the impetuosity of Edward, and in a great measure reconciled him to the separation that must unavoidably take place before the completion of his wishes. He entered into a short but instructive discourse on the important duties of the marriage state, and concluded with a fervent prayer for their mutual felicity. He delineated the character of the Marquis Vaena in terms that charmed Juliana and Edward, and dwelt on his virtues with parental enthusiasm: they prolonged their visit till the clock reminded them they would scarcely have time to dress for dinner; reluctantly they bid Father Edmund adieu.

On their return they found Mrs. Carre and Charles just arrived from the Cottage, where they had passed a month, Mrs. Carre having had some very particular business to transact with a gentleman who had been on a visit to her. The young folks were much pleased at the meeting; Charles saluted Matilda with evident emotion, who trembled excessively, and the tear that started in her eye spoke forcibly the state of her heart: this was not unobserved, but no notice being taken of it, they soon recovered themselves.

As soon as an opportunity offered, Edward related to Charles the pleasing explanation

explanation which had taken place between him and Juliana.

“ Congratulate me, my dear friend, on being certain that the dear girl returns my affection, and that our attachment is sanctioned by our parents.”

“ Happy, thrice happy Edward,” exclaimed Charles with a sigh, “ may thy felicity be as lasting as this transitory world will permit.”

“ Thanks, my dear Charles, but you are uncommonly grave, has anything material happened to depress your spirits? if there has, let me share your
H 6 grief,

grief, for devoted as my heart is to Juliana, it has still a part for a friend."

Charles pressed his hand and begged him to believe he estimated his repeated marks of friendship as he ought;

"But—but..."

He hesitated, and Edward perceiving he was much embarrassed politely changed the discourse.

Mr. Millward had written a circumstantial detail to the Marquis Væna of the intended arrangement relative to Juliana and Edward, and mentioned the sentiments of filial love and duty that glowed in the breast of his charming daughter :

daughter: "nor are Edward's much inferior; but he shall pay his respects and thanks in person, the ensuing autumn."

Mr. Smith and Edward set out early in May to embark for Ireland; they were to spend only two months in that country, as Mr. Millward did not choose his son should make too long a stay in that truly hospitable island, fearing he might imbibe too great a relish for that spirit of conviviality that prevails universally at their truly social boards. They were to return by way of Scotland,

The parting of Juliana and Edward cost the former many tears; finding that

that Edward was much affected, she exerted herself and strove as much as possible to conceal the poignancy of her feelings: a secret dread she could not account for, hung over her, nor could the united efforts of her friends restore her to her natural harmony of spirits.

At length the repeated letters of Edward, replete with the most animated expressions of love and tenderness, in some measure tranquillized her mind, but she was bereft of her charming vivacity and innocent gaiety that rendered her conversation and society so engaging. Edward in one of his letters expressed himself as follows :

“ Your

“ Your letters, my adored Juliana, have the magic power of soothing whilst they increase the regret I feel at our separation, which with every alleviation that can arise from the delightful certainty of possessing your affection, and the fond hope of being restored to your society, is, when I consider the distance between us, almost insupportable.”

A packet was received from the Marquis containing letters to Mr. and Mrs. Millward; that addressed to his daughter was written in the language of the purest affection, and in the warmest terms, expressive of his approbation of his intended son-in-law, to whom he wrote

wrote a few lines, assuring him how impatient he was to embrace him: his letter to father Edmund was long and in a melancholy strain:

“ If Heaven,” said he, “ permits me to fold to my heart my adopted son, (ahs! I have no other,) and through him to convey my blessing to my dearest Juliana, I shall with pleasure quit this delusive world; my path through which, my respected friend, has been a thorny one. Oh! thou Power Supreme, grant that the proposed union may be accomplished; and may it prove a happy one.”

Before he concluded, the Marquis mentioned

mentioned that he almost hourly expected the dissolution of the Duke his father, who had never recovered the shock of Alphonsa's death.

CHAP. VIII.

FOUR months passed without any thing material occurring at the Hall, except that Charles's affection for Matilda increased daily, and at last was perceived by Mrs. Carre, who immediately mentioned it to the family and proposed separating the young people before it had taken too deep root : "she should ill repay," she said, "the generous friendship she had been treated with, by
suffering

suffering her son to gain the affection of the daughter of her much esteemed patrons ; therefore, though it will prove a severe pang, I am determined to quit this hospitable roof, and give up the society of those who for these four last years have solaced my afflictions and have been the means of my boy's receiving a liberal education."

The General in his blunt way asked—

" And what, my dear madam, is your reason for flying from our alliance, and dooming our darling Matilda and your son to misery, for miserable they will be if they are parted? I am certain that neither Mr. or Mrs. Millward has the least

least idea of thwarting their inclinations, or any objection when of a proper age of receiving my friend Charles for their son; and as to me, I suffered so much by preventing for some years the marriage of Henry and Emma, that I shall be the last person to oppose the happiness of my grand-child."

Nothing could equal the surprise of Mrs. Carré at this totally unexpected declaration: highly as she thought of the disinterestedness of their characters, and the nobleness and liberality of their sentiments, she could not suppose they would approve of their daughter connecting herself with a family, deprived not only of its hereditary honours, but stripped of its patrimony, and reduced from the
highest

highest pitch of affluence to a state of comparative poverty, for such might be said the slender pittance of two hundred a year, and even for that they were indebted to the bounty of the worthy Earl of A——, who recommended them to the protection of the Millward's. Some minutes elapsed before she could reply.

"Is it possible," exclaimed she, "that my worthy friends are not displeased with my presumptuous boy? I this morning questioned him on the subject; and in a most candid manner he owned he had aspired to the affections of Miss Millward. 'I know, my dear mother, your rigid notions of honour and strict adherence to the rules of rectitude

itude will condemn me, and you will reproach me not only for breaking the laws of hospitality, but with ingratitude to my best friends ; yet let me conjure you to make some allowance for the frailty of youth, and the irresistible charms of the too lovely Matilda ; besides,* continued he, and a spark of pride glowed on his countenance, ‘ there was a time I might have claimed the hand of Miss Millward without being accused either of ingratitude or presumption.’ In short, after a long and painful conversation in which he vainly endeavoured to drive me from my purpose of quitting not only Upton Hall but its environs, and retiring to an obscure part of Wales, he left me in a situation of
mind

mind that roused every parental feeling; though it did not shake my resolution."

Mr. and Mrs. Millward expressed much concern; they had not long since entered on the subject, as they had perceived the partiality of Charles and Matilda for each other some time; they then with that natural urbanity and politeness, for which they were so eminently distinguished, assured her they should esteem her alliance an honour.

"By birth," continued Mr. Millward, "I have no doubt of your son's equality, nay, of his superiority; his morals are good and his disposition amiable; add to this, he is highly accomplished, and the graces of his person exactly correspond

pond with the virtues of his heart: what more, my dear madam, can we wish for in the man who is to rule the future destiny of our daughter?"

, Mrs. Carré after giving vent to the various feelings of her grateful heart, said—

"It is certainly right you should be acquainted with the real names and character of persons whom you esteem sufficient to rank as part of your family. I have often reproached myself for not acquainting you with particulars of our misfortunes; but a reluctance I could not conquer, has hitherto prevented me from entering into a detail of circumstances

cumstances which recall ideas of scenes that harrow up my soul."

The General begged Mrs. Carre would defer till a future period a recital which he was certain would distress her.

"Let us dedicate the rest of the day to happiness, we only want the presence of Edward to render it complete."

Mrs. Carre replied, she would avail herself of his kindness, that she had committed a great part of it to paper, which she would finish and submit to their perusal.

The young people who had been
VOL. III. I rambling

rambling in the park, now joined the circle. The looks of Charles and Matilda showed how much they dreaded the proposed separation: they were instantly changed on the General's informing them that Mrs. Carre had been prevailed on to continue an inmate at the Hall; nothing more at that time passed.

Edward and Mr. Smith was expected in the course of a week from Scotland, where none had been more attentive to them than the Earl of A——, of whom Edward spoke in the highest terms; and in his last letter to Juliana, he says:

“ In two days we shall quit this delightful spot, where we have experienced
every

every instance of kindness that the truest benevolence and most unbounded hospitality can bestow, nor should I leave it without extreme regret, but for the pleasing reflection that I am on the point of returning to Upton Hall, the place where all my happiness is centered."

About a mile from the park was a most beautiful plantation of lime and fir trees intermixed with various flowery shrubs, some fine exotics and myrtles; in the midst stood a small rustic temple which had been built at the express desire of Edward, and under his inspection.

A serpentine walk led to a small
I 2 creek

creek of the sea, where a few fishermen's huts were scattered on the beach: this was a favourite resort of Juliana's, and few days passed without her visiting it. Charles and Matilda always accompanied her; while they were engaged in an interesting discourse and rambled farther on, Juliana would amuse herself with reading till their return.

One uncommon fine evening Charles and Matilda had been induced to prolong their walk beyond their usual bounds; they had been laying future plans of happiness and anticipating the time that Edward would have finished his travels, their probation be past, and the wished-for unions take place. Thus employed, they thought not of returning

returning till the sun had long set, and was greatly surprised to find they were above three miles from home ; fearing that Juliana would be uneasy, they quickened their pace and had nearly reached the plantation, when they were overtaken by a violent and sudden storm : tremendous peals of thunder followed each other in quick succession, and vivid lightning darted from the sky in every direction. As they entered the temple the rain began to descend in torrents ; it is impossible to paint the distress of Matilda on finding Juliana was not there.

“ Good Heaven ! protect her ; what, my dear Charles, can have become of her ? ”

“Be pacified, my dearest Matilda, I trust she is not far off.”

Repeatedly they called her, on receiving no answer, Charles became alarmed. The storm now raged with increased violence. Scarcely were they sheltered from it, yet were they unwilling to leave the spot. At length it occurred to them, Juliana might have sought refuge in the cottage which stood at the park gate, thither they hastened and arrived drenched with rain.

Matilda was almost exhausted with fright and fatigue: Charles thundered at the door, which was immediately opened by the good old couple who had resided there many years.

“God

"God bless my soul!" cried the man, "your honours are wet to the skin; here, Mary, light a fire quickly."

"Is Juliana here?" exclaimed Charles and Matilda, as soon as they recovered breath.

"We have not seen Miss Seymour since she passed the cottage with your honours three hours ago."

"What can be done?" exclaimed Matilda, wringing her hands; "some accident has happened to her."

Charles endeavoured to quiet her apprehensions, though his own were little short of hers.

“ Stay here, my dear Matilda, I and John will search every avenue that leads to the temple and park, she possibly may have gained the latter.”

At that instant a loud knocking at the door inspired them with hopes ; Charles flew to open it, saying—

“ This must be our dear Juliana.”

It is easy to guess his feelings when he found it was only several servants who had been sent from the Hall with lights.

The storm and the lateness of the hour had alarmed the family ; a general consternation took place ; all seemed panic struck ; Juliana was the idol of every

every one. Charles suddenly snatched a torch from one of the servants and ordering the rest to follow him, flew out of the cottage without uttering a syllable.

Matilda thought it proper to acquaint her father that Juliana could not be found, and were giving orders to the servants that were left when Mr. Millward and James arrived; on entering the cottage, seeing Matilda,

“Heaven be praised! they are safe;” cried he; “my dearest child, (embracing Matilda,) you know not what we have suffered by the uncommon length of your stay: my Juliana and Charles where are you?”

Matilda burst into tears.

“ Charles, my dear father, is safe, but Juliana——”

“ What means, my child, no accident has, I trust, befallen her ?”

Before she could answer, Charles returned and gave Mr. Millward an account of all he knew relative to Juliana.

The storm being considerably abated, a faint hope was entertained of her having reached the Hall. The servants with James were ordered to go over the pleasure grounds, and Mr. Millward with the assistance of Charles conveyed Matilda home.

The

The first inquiries were after Juliana, never was more anxious concern expressed than for her safety. The whole village assembled to offer their aid, nor would the honest rustics retire to rest, but spent the night in vainly endeavouring to trace Juliana. Not an eye was closed at the Hall by the female part, it was passed in tears; the morning only brought fresh disappointments, no intelligence could be gained, nor any probable conjecture formed relative to the sudden disappearance of Juliana. Day after day arrived, and only added to their misery, as the whole affair seemed enveloped in a most profound mystery.

Matilda and Charles continually re-

proached themselves for having staid so long on that fatal evening. The country had been searched and every magistrate applied to : hand-bills had been circulated, and Juliana had been advertised in the daily papers, and an immense reward offered ; but every effort to recover her had proved abortive. Edward and Mr. Smith were hourly expected, and they dreaded the effects the uncertain fate of his adored Juliana would have on the former.

Henry, who we have not mentioned for some time, had not been either inactive, or unconcerned on this occasion : he was grown a fine young man, and had gained the love of Mrs. Bern by his amiable conduct and his great attention

tion to his profession. Daily he continued his inquiries, though hopeless of success. Peace was fled from the till then happy abode ; visitors were entirely excluded ; no persons, however intimate, were admitted, except the worthy Rector and family, and even his pious admonitions in a great measure failed of effect.

Mrs. E. Montague was almost constantly at the Hall, but she could only mingle her tears with those of Matilda's.

The General was so much affected by the loss of his favourite, that it brought on a violent fit of the gout, and Mr. and Mrs. Millward were forced to suppress their

their own feelings to comfort him and Matilda, whose health visibly declined.

Mrs. Owen's grief was silent, but deep ; she was unremitting in her kind attentions in endeavouring to sooth sorrows she too severely felt.

Things were in this state when the arrival of Edward and Mr. Smith, added, if possible, to their distress ; unfortunately he had dismounted at the entrance of the pleasure ground, and sent the attendants and horses round the back way, meaning to surprise the family.

Edward entered the drawing-room with unusual gaiety ; but in a moment
was

was struck with the deep melancholy impressed on every countenance. Finding Juliana was absent, he concluded she was ill: hastily embracing his parents, he inquired with the greatest anxiety after Juliana. Mrs. Millward could not suppress her tears, and his sister from extreme weakness fainted.

“My God!” cried he, “my adored Juliana is dead; for mercy’s sake! torture me not with suspense, but let me know the worst!”

His whole frame shook with emotions; unable to support himself he sunk into a chair. Mr. Millward embracing him, said—

“Let

“Let me conjure you, my dear Edward, to moderate this excess of sensibility, not only for your own sake, but in pity to those who are infinitely dear to you ; attend with calmness to all we know of an event, which is needless to say, has plunged us in the deepest affliction.”

He then related every circumstance relative to the unaccountable disappearance of Juliana, and every step which had been taken to fathom this mysterious transaction.

It was some hours before the endeavours of Mr. and Mrs. Millward, united to those of Mr. Smith, could bring him to any degree of composure : at length the situation of his grandfather and
sister

sister induced him to use every effort to confine his grief within bounds, as he perceived they were already overpowered, and when he retired for the night he was more collected, though not less wretched.

Early the next morning he sought the advice and counsel of the venerable hermit, who he found in great affliction for the uncertain fate of Juliana: his aspect was serene, mildly expressive of grief, and from his still expressive eyes beamed resignation, and saint-like patience blended with hope. On perceiving Edward he advanced to meet him, and clasping him to his heart with fatherly affection, he thus addressed him:

“Remember,

“Remember, my son, that afflictions are often blessings in disguise, which I have proved in many instances; nor should you be surprised at being destined to experience those vicissitudes from which the most fortunate cannot be wholly exempted. This event is, I own, a severe trial; endeavour to support it with a fortitude becoming a christian; remember that the All-wise and Merciful Power, who has hitherto strewed your path of life with flowers, would not afflict you but for the most salutary purposes; reflect likewise, my child, that our dear and lamented Juliana, whatever has been her fate, and though separated from her earthly parents and friends, is still under the protection of her Heavenly Father, who
will

will, I am certain, shield her from every danger, and have no doubt restore her to you."

The hermit at length reasoned him into a rational state of mind, and by his arguments he was enabled to subdue the violent expressions of grief, but it sunk deep in his heart. It was with the utmost difficulty he was prevented from setting out in pursuit of Juliana; nothing but the absolute commands of his father prevailed, both he and Mr. Smith pointed out the folly of such an expedient: daily did he visit the plantation and explore every avenue that led to the temple, in hopes of finding some clue to direct him; but vain was every exertion to fathom this dark affair.—

Thus

Thus passed a month, and every succeeding day seemed to add to their distress ; no letter had been received from the Marquis, to whom Mr. Millward dared not write, fearing the intelligence he had to communicate, added to his late misfortunes, might deprive him of his reason.

CHAP. IX.

One evening Mr. Millward was told a person in deep mourning wished to speak to him, as he had something of importance to communicate: nothing could equal the surprise of Mr. Millward on finding it was Pedro, the Marquis of Vaena's old and favourite valet, whom he instantly recollected, though he was greatly altered and appeared weak and debilitated. Mr.

Millward

Millward eagerly inquired after the Marquis—

“What of my friend? have you no letter for me?”

The poor fellow bursting into tears, exclaimed—

“O! Sir, I have sad news; but may I ask how my young mistress does, the Lady Juliana?”

“My faithful Pedro, I have a short but melancholy account to give of that dear girl, but tell me what of my friend?”

Pedro concluding from Mr. Millward's

ward's manner of speaking that Juliana was dead, raised his eyes to Heaven and crossing himself, ejaculated a short prayer for the repose of her soul.

"God's will be done!" continued Pedro, "the only consolation I hoped is denied me; but I ask your pardon, Sir, for keeping you in suspense, yet I know not how to inform you of the dreadful fate of my beloved and ever honoured master."

"Stop, Pedro;" said Mr. Millward, "your dress and words too sure inform me he is no more! then you, my friend, my dear Alonza, are spared the pangs I feel at the uncertainty of Juliana's

na's destiny.—Proceed, Pedro, to know the worst will be some relief."

Pedro in broken accents acquainted Mr. Millward that a few days after the Marquis had sent his last packet to England, business of importance obliged him to visit an estate which lay on the confines of ——. The steward having died suddenly made the Marquis's presence absolutely necessary, as the Duke was too infirm to undertake the journey.

"My master meant to be absent a short time and travel privately, and took only me and two other domestics : we arrived perfectly safe, but found the accounts in so perplexed a state, and things in such confusion, that the Marquis

quis was detained much longer than he expected. The loneliness of the situation, and the largeness of the castle, added to its having few inhabitants, seemed to suit the melancholy the Marquis frequently indulged since the loss of Lord Alphonsa ; and frequently by moonlight he would walk for an hour or two in a retired grove, which lay contiguous to the pleasure grounds ; nor would he ever permit my attendance ; he constantly returned by eleven. On the fatal night he had ordered me to settle some accounts, which being intricate, so entirely engrossed my attention, that the time passed imperceptibly ; till hearing the clock strike one, I was alarmed for the safety of my lord, whom I instantly went in pursuit of. I hastily

caught up a pistol and called to the other servants to arm and follow me :

“ I had scarcely entered the grove, when the sound of voices made me quicken my pace. Before I reached the centre, I beheld my master on the ground, weltering in his blood : I called for assistance and endeavoured to raise him, as I perceived some signs of life remaining. At that instant I received a stab in my back, and fell ; I must have remained a considerable time insensible : on my recovering I found myself in bed, my wounds dressed, and the good old housekeeper in tears by me. I inquired eagerly for the Marquis, on which I was told that the most diligent search had been made after him, but in vain, and that

that they waited my coming to myself for information ; that Father Francis, (the domestic chaplain,) wished to speak to me. I desired to see the holy man immediately, to whom I related particulars, but did not communicate my suspicions relative to the murder: the good father was struck with horror; from my situation he had apprehended some danger to the Marquis, but flattered himself he might have escaped the assassins.

“ He told me that Fabian and Stephen had followed me immediately well armed, but unfortunately had mistaken my orders; instead of the grove at the end of the garden, they had ran to a large wood that lay at some distance

from the Castle ; that not being able to find me they returned, greatly alarmed, and applied to Father Francis, who dispatched them with several others, to search the pleasure grounds.

“ On entering the grove they had not advanced far when a faint groan caught their ear ; following the sound, they perceived the earth newly turned up, and removing it, found me apparently dead ; some of them conveyed me to the castle, whilst the others pursued their search. On examining me, Father Francis found I had still life in me, and having employed proper remedies and dressed my wound, I began to breathe and opened my eyes, but remained several hours insensible ;

sensible ; he told me my wound was deep but not dangerous, and that in a few days I should be able to go out. I thanked Father Francis for his kindness, and entreated him to use every endeavour to find the body of the Marquis. The worthy man needed not my solicitations, his own attachment to the family led him to take every possible step to discover where the body of the Marquis was deposited, and to bring the murderers to justice, but every exertion was in vain. In my own breast I was convinced that the same atrocious villains had deprived father and son of life. An express was sent off to Don Sebastian to acquaint him with the horrid circumstance : as soon as I was able I again had every spot of the grove and

places adjacent searched, but could not find the least trace of my beloved master, which leads me to imagine they had carried his body off.

“ I sealed up all the effects in the Castle, and delivered every thing in charge to Father Francis. I set out for Madrid with a heavy heart, and reached it only a few hours before the Duke departed : he had given strict orders that if I arrived before his death I should be admitted to his apartment. I am convinced his Grace knew me, though he was unable to speak : never shall I forget his look ; he fixed his dying eyes on me with such earnestness that quite overpowered me ; vainly I attempted to articulate, my sobs prevented utterance :
the

the Duke pressed my hand and fell for a short time asleep; on waking he was perfectly composed, and plainly said—

“ O! Pedro; this last blow has proved too much.”

“ Shortly after he expired in my arms; the shock indeed had been too severe for his years, and already debilitated frame, and he sunk under the pressure.

“ Don Gusman being heir to the title and estate, the Duke had in the strongest terms disposed of his personal property, jewels, plate, and furniture, in favour of the Marchioness and Lady

Elvira, and provided for all his servants ; to me he bequeathed a handsome annuity ; this will had been made during his last illness.

“ To our great surprise, Don Gusman and Donna Triphosa came and demanded possession the very day the Duke died ; we had no idea of their being returned to Spain. The distress and confusion that reigned throughout the house prevented me from securing my master's papers, and the illness of the Marchioness prevented me from seeing her. Don Gusman insisted on putting his seal on all the effects, alledging he had a right to inspect them, as the title deeds, bonds, &c. were in the possession of the late Marquis. I should
mention

mention that since the murder of the Lord Alphonsa our family had resided constantly with the Duke.

“ I believe, Sir, you are well acquainted with the real character of Don Gusman, and Donna Triphosa, and of the strong suspicions entertained concerning the murder of my young Lord. If I had a doubt remaining, Don Gusman’s astonishment and confusion at the sight of me, (whom he supposed dead, would have dispelled it ; I was almost tempted to say, thou art the man !—but prudence tied my tongue. As soon as he could recover himself, he expressed how happy he was to see me, and with well-dissembled grief lamented the melancholy events that had followed each

other in such quick succession. Scarcely could I restrain my indignation ; but though my heart was ready to burst, I suppressed my feelings as much as possible. Spight of my endeavours my tears would flow : he commended my fidelity and attachment to my master, and put various questions relative to the murder, which I answered with the greatest caution ; at length I was permitted to quit his présence.

“ The next morning Don Gusman sent for me into the library, after a long preafmble and a promise of being a friend and providing for me—

“ ‘ Pedro,’ said he, ‘ I know you were in possession of all your Lord’s secrets ;

secrets ; there is a point I wish to be satisfied on : did not the Marquis in the early part of his life form a connection with an English lady ? and has he not a daughter living, for whom he has amply provided ?—

“ I was convinced he had searched the pocket book my lord had about him ; it contained some papers of consequence and the last packet of letters he had received from England. I imagined he was in possession of Lady Juliana’s picture, from some hints he dropped of her being a paragon of beauty : however, I resolved, as I could not evade answering, to plead ignorance, and assured Don Gusman he was mistaken.

“No; Pedro:” he replied, with a frown and look which almost petrified me, “I am not mistaken, you had better have accepted my proffered friendship, but your folly be on your head; severely you will repent it: as you are so good at keeping secrets, take care you do not betray this conversation; you may now leave me, but I command you not to quit the house.”

“I determined to consult Don Sebastian, but by the machinations of Don Gusman I was prevented from seeing him, though he had passed several hours with the Marchioness and had particularly asked for me: this almost distracted me. In the dusk of the evening

as I was crossing the court yard a boy put a parcel in my hand and disappeared instantly. On opening it, to my great surprise I found it contained the Marquis's last will, to which I had been a witness, and the following lines addressed to me.

‘ Fly, Pedro, you have not a moment to lose, this night you will be dispatched ; you know too much, and are too firmly attached to the late owners of this mansion and to those that yet remain, to be permitted to live. A vessel sails for England in less than three hours ; get on board immediately. On your arrival make all speed to Devonshire ; may you reach it in time to prevent the Lady Juliana from falling into

into the hands of Don Gusman ; give the will in charge to Mr. Millward ; I have not time to add more. Adieu ! Heaven preserve you.'

" Astonishment for some minutes deprived me of the use of my faculties ; as soon as my recollection returned, I determined, if possible, to follow the advice of my unknown friend ; I had no doubt of the truth of the information given, how obtained and conveyed to me was a mystery I could not fathom. I packed up a few necessaries and what money I had, but had a thousand fears I should not be able to escape, as I was certain Don Gusman had placed a spy over me ; but I had the good fortune to elude his vigilance and reached the ship
in

in safety at the very instant they weighed anchor ; we had a very tedious passage.

“ As soon as I landed at Falmouth I took post for Upton, and was in hopes to have arrived in time to prevent the threatened danger to my Lady Juliana, but the words you let fall, Sir, makes me fear she is either dead or fallen into the power of Don Gusman.”

“ Good Heaven !” said Mr. Millward, “ can it be possible that the dear girl has been carried off by that atrocious villain ? how he could effect it I cannot possibly imagine.”

He acquainted Pedro with the particulars

ticulars and the vain endeavours that had been made to gain some intelligence ; Pedro was extremely shocked at the recital.

“ How comes it,” asked Mr. Millward “ that Don Gusman is permitted to carry on his iniquitous schemes with impunity ; he has been in disgrace at Court for many years, and though the recent transactions cannot be brought home to him, he is entirely an object of suspicion ; and I should have thought that Don Sebastian would have had sufficient interest to have brought him to trial.”

“ Unfortunately, Sir, the minister who was so firmly attached to our family,

mily, and that of Don Sebastian's died suddenly; and his successor is a particular friend of Donna Triphosa, over whom she has despotic power. Don Gusman, I was told, is to be immediately reinstated in his former employment, and to be received into royal favour."

Pedro gave the will of the Marquis to Mr. Millward; in it he owns Juliana as his legitimate and eldest daughter, and refers to Mr. and Mrs. Millward for particulars; and for the vouchers of her birth and his marriage, he names Pedro as one of the witnesses, and briefly gives his reasons for concealing his marriage and the existence of his daughter, and mentioned that he thought his

vow

vow of secrecy ended with his life. He named Juliana as the undoubted heiress of the Castle of —— and an estate of six thousand a year, which he enjoyed in right of his mother, the late Duchess of St. Ildefonsa. He leaves his personal fortune between his two daughters, Juliana and Elvira; it was all written in his own hand, signed, dated and sealed.

When Mr. Millward had read it, after a pause, he said—

“What step can be taken as we have only surmises to go on? have you any conjecture who your anonymous friend is? he could lead to the wished for discovery.”

“I

" I am not certain, Sir, but Don Gusman's valet once or twice hinted he was displeased with his conduct, and that he feared his master was a bad man."

" Have you the letter you received containing the information ?"

" I have, but if written by him, he has so disguised his hand that I could not swear to it ; but what strengthens my opinion of its being him, is, I once rendered him a very essential service."

" I must take a little time for reflection ;" said Mr. Millward, " to-morrow we will fix on some plan, for very strong measures must be taken without delay :
you

you need refreshment, Pedro, and rest after the fatigue you have lately experienced in body and mind; you must see poor Evans and endeavour to console her; she persists that our dear Juliana is murdered."

Mr. Millward acquainted the family with the afflicting intelligence he had received from Pedro. Edward was frantic, he entreated he might be allowed to set off for Spain, and vowed he would make Don Gusman restore Juliana. In vain did Mr. Smith expostulate with him and entreat of him to be calm.

"Edward," said Mr. Millward with firmness, "I insist on your not giving way

way to these gusts of passion ; you see your grandfather, mother and sister sinking under the pressure of affliction ; it is your duty, and I trust affection will lead you to sooth their sorrows, not increase them by this boyish behaviour. Every one in this family is equally interested in the fate of Juliana, nor are their feelings on her account less acute than yours, though they are restrained by religion and reason from giving way to them ; if you cannot controul yours, I desire you will retire to your apartment."

This reproach and the look that accompanied it, had the wished-for effect, and in a great measure moderated the transports of rage and grief he had given way to, and taking his father's hand which he respectfully kissed, he entreated

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ed pardon, and promised, if possible, to obey him.

After various schemes and consultations, Mr. Millward proposed setting off for London the next day, and laying the whole affair before the Spanish Ambassador, with every particular relative to the Marquis and Juliana, and to beg his assistance and counsel how to proceed.

“ I shall on this occasion,” continued Mr. Millward, “ claim the royal promise of granting any request I should make, as I think it necessary to interest our court in the affair.”

This proposition was highly approved of; Edward's looks expressed an anxious wish to be of the party, but he was unwilling

willing to mention it, as it was ever a rule with Mr. Millward to comply with his children's inclinations where he could do it with propriety.

He resolved to take Edward, as he thought it would amuse his mind; sincerely did he commiserate his sorrows, and made every allowance for the natural impetuosity of youth: still he thought it right to correct it.

Edward was highly gratified by having permission to attend his father, who requested the favour of Mr. Smith's company—

“As I shall stand in need of your advice, my friend;” said he.

Mr.



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